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No 64,233

MONDAY JANUARY 20 1992

40p

Middle East peace talks threatened as Shamir is deserted by partners

Israel's fragile coalition collapses

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM



Peres: demanding halt to peace talks

THE government of Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, was brought down yesterday after right-wing members of his coalition opposed to Palestinian self-rule resigned during a heated and at times tumultuous cabinet meeting.

The government's fall paves the way for early elections, with the fate of the Washington-backed Middle East peace talks dominating the campaign. Syria and Lebanon said last night they would boycott the next round of talks, due to be held in Moscow next week.

The Knesset (parliament) is expected to be dissolved this week, with elections called for the summer, possibly June 9. Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, who hopes to face Mr

Shamir in the next elections, demanded an immediate halt to the Middle East peace process until a new government was formed.

The resignations by Yuval Neeman, the science minister, who heads the Tehiya party, and Rehavam Zeevi, minister without portfolio, head of the Moledet party, take effect tomorrow, when the ruling Likud party and its remaining junior coalition partners will become a minority government, two seats short of a majority in the Knesset.

Emerging from the prime minister's office in Jerusalem, Mr Zeevi said that he had decided to pull out of the government because of its policy of granting autonomy to Palestinians living in the occupied territories and its failure in putting down the four-year intifada (uprising). Mr Neeman added that he hoped his resignation would halt the peace efforts, which his party regards as a prelude to the formation of a Palestinian state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "I hope that our departure will create a government crisis that will stop the autonomy train," Mr Zeevi wrote in his resignation letter.

During the cabinet session Ehud Olmert, health minister, told Mr Zeevi his party's position on expulsions was immovable. Mr Zeevi shouted back: "You are a creep". Mr Olmert, a potential successor to Mr Shamir, said: "I am not sorry about Moledet's departure. I pray we will never need them again."

The imminent collapse of the most hardline coalition government ever to rule Israel did not appear to damage Mr Shamir or his Likud party's chances of reelection. In the present Knesset both Likud and Labour are neck and neck, with Likud enjoying a one-seat advantage with 39 members in the 120-member house. Latest opinion polls show that the main parties in the

Knesset would be returned with an almost identical number of seats if elections were held today. Likud's main advantage will be in the election campaign when it will claim to be the only party capable not only of delivering peace with Arab neighbours, but also of ensuring the country's security and keeping the occupied territories, which it regards as the biblical lands of Israel.

"The fact is that until today no one could say that in the past years there was a government stronger than this government for preserving the land of Israel," Mr Shamir said at the weekend, setting out the theme of his reelection platform. "On the other hand, in parallel, there was not a government like this, which achieved a peace process, is carrying it on and will continue to."

A decisive factor in the voting may well rest in the estimated 650,000 new voters, who will be responsible for 25 new seats in the Knesset

under the present proportional representation voting system. The new voters are made up of about 250,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union and about 400,000 Israeli teenagers, both of whom have shown growing tendencies to vote for the right wing, particularly Likud. Labour's main challenge will be to persuade the Israeli public that it could negotiate with the Arabs more effectively than Likud.

In Washington, Yoram Ettinger, minister at the Israeli mission, was at the centre of a controversy last night after advising colleagues to "exploit President Bush's unpopularity" to press home claims for billions of dollars in US loan guarantees to help Israel absorb immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

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Another foreign bank note given away free today
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Brooke defies calls to resign

BY EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

PETER Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, will defend security policy in the province when he makes a statement in the Commons today in the wake of Friday's IRA bombing near Cookstown that killed seven Protestant workmen and injured seven others.

The statement comes amid fears of an imminent Loyalist retaliatory strike and after further IRA violence yesterday, including a bomb attack in Belfast in which an army patrol escaped injury and five firebombings of shops in Portadown, Co Armagh, which caused damage estimated at £1 million.

Mr Brooke is also expected to resist calls for his resignation over his decision to appear on a Dublin television chat show just after Friday's bombing when he sang verses from the song *Oh My Darling Clementine*.

Unionist MPs led by the Rev Ian Paisley, Democratic Unionist party leader, have accused him of gross insensitivity and have called for him to resign. Mr Paisley was quoted yesterday as saying he had never known such anger among his constituents. Downing Street, however, sprang to Mr Brooke's defence, letting it be known that



'Silent memorial': a roadside cross erected outside Cookstown at the place where an IRA bomb killed seven workmen on Friday

he still had the prime minister's support.

Support came too from Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats. He said that Mr Brooke had made a misjudgment, but criticism from Unionist MPs who only last week had condemned the latest failure of Mr Brooke's talks initiative struck him as miserable hypocrisy. "It is incredible," Mr Ashdown told BBC Radio, "that these people, who have risked and destroyed a chance of peace in Ireland because they could not find an appropriate time or place or formula, should now criticise Peter Brooke. It makes me sick."

Today's statement is the latest move by the government to try to stem anger, particularly in the Unionist community, over what they see as the government's failure to go on the offensive against the IRA.

Over the weekend 500 extra troops were drafted into Northern Ireland — the third such deployment in two months — but that was dismissed by Mr Paisley as too little, too late. He said that another battalion at least was required and Ulster Defence Regiment part-time soldiers should also be put on a permanent full-time footing. He again appealed for the government to end its policy of trying to protect likely IRA

targets and instead to target the IRA itself and its weapons stores.

Mr Paisley and three other Unionist MPs who lost constituents in Friday's bombing will convey their view to John Major at a meeting at Downing Street this evening at which Mr Brooke is also expected to be present.

Last night, sources close to Mr Brooke made clear that he had no intention of resigning. While admitting that in retrospect his decision to appear on RTE's *Late Late Show* may not have been the best course of action, it was being pointed out that he took the opportunity to condemn the attack at the beginning of his interview with Gay Byrne, the show's presenter. The sources also emphasised that Mr Brooke had sung only reluctantly after being persuaded by Mr Byrne, and that he was clearly embarrassed when asked to do so.

Meanwhile, Dr Joseph Cassidy, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tuam, in the republic, said that the IRA was close to being excommunicated because of its campaign of violence, although he added: "I doubt if it will have much effect. They have excommunicated themselves in spirit, mind, heart and action."

Key to peace, page 2

Ministers try to scotch April 9 election rumour

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

NORMAN Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has rejected March 3 as a possible Budget date and ministers are trying to prevent unstoppable momentum building for an April 9 election.

A May 7 contest remains the favourite with Tory election planners, who believe that indications from the latest polls are not yet strong enough to encourage going all out for the earlier option.

A Harris poll in yesterday's *Observer* showed that the Conservatives are seen as the better party to run the economy by a margin of only six points (37 per cent to 31 per cent), and more than half of those polled by ICM for the *Sunday Express* reckoned the government had "run out of ideas".

Although pleased by initial gains from their attack on Labour tax policies, senior ministers concede that there is much more work to be done to establish a winning position. They will not encourage the prime minister to seek an

Party	Feb 1991	Sample	Cons	Lab	Lib D	Other	Lead
MORI (Times)	Dec 4-5	1,076	40	43	12	5	Lab 3
ICM (Guardian)	Dec 6-7	1,408	39	42	14	5	Lab 3
Gallup (S Tel)	Dec 11-12	987	42	41	13	3.5	Con 0.5
NOP (Ind on S)	Dec 13	1,039	41	40	14	5	Con 1
MORI (S Times)	Dec 27	1,087	38	44	14	4	Lab 6
NOP (Ind on S)	Jan 7-8	1,046	40	45	12	3	Lab 5
ICM (Guardian)	Jan 10-11	1,468	42	41	12	5	Con 1
Gallup (D Tel)	Jan 8-13	1,115	42	37	16	4.5	Con 4.5
NOP (Indep)	Jan 11-13	1,453	40	43	13	4	Lab 3
Harris (Obs)	Jan 15-16	1,085	42	43	13	3	Lab 1
ICM (Sun Exp)	Jan 17	1,022	41	42	14	3	Lab 1

April election unless the Tories build a significant lead in opinion polls by the time of the Budget. Mr Lamont will announce its date, either March 10 or 17, when he opens the autumn statement debate on Wednesday.

In spite of the Tory advances, Labour has led in seven of the 11 major polls conducted since the start of December, while the Tories have been ahead in only four. The margins are so close, however, that there is nothing to separate the parties after

the first fortnight of the "phony election". Labour claims that this shows that the Tories have failed to establish a lead after firing their best campaign ammunition.

In an interview with TV-am yesterday, John Major agreed that the election might have to be fought without an evident economic recovery.

Pledging not to create an artificial short-term boom to

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Mothers' tax hope, page 2
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Women struggle to find room at the top

BY RAY CLANCY AND JONATHAN PRYNN



Detta O'Cathain: one of the few at the top

THE government's drive to promote top jobs for women in business and industry has so far made no impact in the boardrooms, with women holding less than 0.5 per cent of prominent positions in a selection of leading companies, according to the annual directory of the business world published today.

The 1992 *Crawford's Directory of City Connections* lists more than 4,000 chairmen, deputy chairmen, chief executives, managing directors and finance directors of public companies, of which a mere 20 are women. It also shows that although women have been relatively success-

ful in winning the finance director role, they remain virtually absent from the very highest executive posts in larger companies and have made almost no headway in the traditionally male dominated sectors that make up Britain's heavy industrial core.

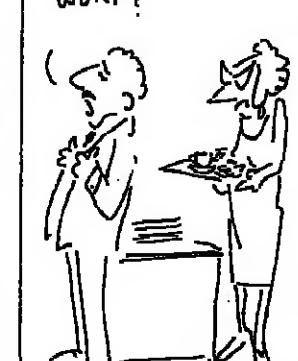
Detta O'Cathain, managing director of the Barbican Centre, said she was appalled at the suggestion that the number of women in British boardrooms was declining, but she believed that numbers are actually increasing among small and medium-sized companies.

As the only woman on three boards, Midland bank,

Sears and Tesco, she has often felt despair at the lack of executive board members of some of Britain's biggest companies. "Attitudes in larger companies are probably more entrenched than in the smaller more recently established businesses. There really are an awful lot of bright women in engineering companies and in those that started off in a garage or back room and grew."

Having been director and managing director of the Milk Marketing Board, director of market planning at Leyland Cars and an adviser to the agriculture minister, she has seen a marked

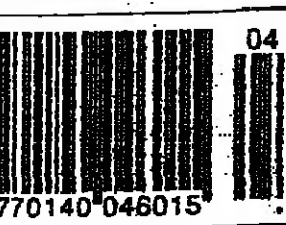
You're in the boardroom, Ms Jones... What more do you want?



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As Ulster mourns, the case for an imposed solution seems stronger

Laying down the law could offer route to peace



Prior: party boycott blocked initiative

LONG-TERM observers of the efforts to forge consensus in Belfast are fond of pointing out that politicians in Northern Ireland will never voluntarily agree on anything.

That seems to be a lesson which governments in general have ignored. They have instead continued the search for something that may be unattainable.

Peter Brooke the Northern Ireland secretary, is no exception. He has presided over "talks about talks" for more than two years. Last year when he attempted to open formal negotiations they lasted just three weeks. This year they fizzled out without even reaching that stage because of uncertainties in the run-up to the general election.

Mr Brooke's formulation was so complex, with its three-way interdependent strands requiring agreement by all participants at every stage, that it was almost bound to fail in a political environment where agreement itself is so rare. The search for the possibly unattainable has had real consequences which cannot be sustained indefinitely. While the politicians in Belfast indulge their hatreds of each other the gunmen have flourished.

The government could tackle this with a determination to impose a solution. It would be rooted in the idea that communities with conflicting aims learn to live together only when they have no choice.

This strategy would initially require a more interventionist approach from the government. It would have to be made clear that abstention by one or other community or political party from new arrangements would not lead to a return to direct rule.

There is evidence from opinion polls, indicating a widespread desire in Northern Ireland for more talks or for a settlement of some kind, to suggest that the government could push hard towards an imposed solution without causing further instability.

The most likely format would be

In the first of a series, Edward Gorman looks at alternative strategies for British policy on Northern Ireland

a form of devolved assembly in Belfast together with a power-sharing executive and an institution of the Northern Ireland Alliance.

In 1982 when Jim Prior, the then secretary of state, tried to legislate along these lines, he failed because one of the main parties boycotted the assembly.

Nearly ten years later, the political map has changed and a boycott is less certain. John Alderdice, leader of the Northern Ireland Alliance party, believes that a legislated-for approach would have a better chance now than at any time in the past. "I think most politicians in Northern Ireland are so starved of real involvement politically," he said, "that they would have no

credibility in the community if they were to boycott such a process."

Alternatively the government could follow a more integrationist line. One model preferred by Unionists would be a system of administrative devolution whereby Northern Ireland would be treated in a way similar to Scotland.

That approach sidesteps one of the main areas of dispute between Unionists and nationalists, power sharing in a law-making cabinet, concentrating instead on the administration of powers handed down by Westminster.

However, this would find little favour with nationalists or with Dublin. Both would interpret an integrationist approach as a denial of an Irish dimension to the government of Northern Ireland and to their ambitions for uniting Ireland.

In truth, as long as Mr Brooke remains at Stormont the prospects for an imposed solution of any kind are remote. A consensus man par excellence, he has never seriously

considered pushing ahead with legislation, believing an imposed solution to be unrealistic and unlikely to provide a stable basis for government.

In the government's view the complexity of the devolution settlement it is aiming for makes attempting to legislate for it impractical. That leads critics of the Northern Ireland Office to suggest that the policy is too sophisticated and too consensus-orientated.

Three years ago *Fortnight* magazine, a respected commentator on the Northern Ireland political scene, set out the argument for legislative intervention. "It is blindingly obvious," the magazine said, "that these leaders will not reach any political accommodation in and of themselves before hell freezes over. They will have to be forced by a combination of popular pressure and governmental resolve."

Next: Anglo-Irish agreement

Man held over station killing

A man was arrested yesterday in connection with the killing of Richard Lyndon, a male nurse who was stabbed to death on a railway platform ten days ago.

Detectives entered a house in Reading, Berkshire, before dawn and took the young man to the town's police station.

Mr Lyndon, a bachelor aged 36, died after being stabbed in the chest in lavatories at Reading railway station on January 10. He was returning to his home in Taunton, Somerset, after a job interview in Slough.

Detective Chief Inspector Trevor Morrey, of Reading police, said: "We have a man in custody who is helping with our enquiries." Police made the arrest after carrying out observations in the Cemetery Junction area.

River clean-up work to start

Emergency action to treat millions of gallons of river water polluted by a cocktail of heavy metals flowing from a disused tin mine is due to begin today. The National Rivers Authority and the mine owner Camron Consolidated have prepared a treatment lagoon to receive overflow water from Wheal Jane, near Truro, Cornwall.

Plans to restart a pumping operation are also progressing. Cessation of pumping on January 4 caused a big overflow from the mine which turned the Fal estuary orange.

Climber killed on Ben Nevis

A climber died after falling from Comb Gully near the summit of Ben Nevis yesterday, bringing the death toll on the 4,086ft snow-covered Scottish mountain to three in six days. Police at Fort William were seeking the dead man's next of kin before releasing his identity.

The alarm was raised by other climbers and the body was recovered by members of the Lochaber mountain rescue team.

Felling protest

Protesters gathered yesterday to try to halt bulldozers felling ancient woodland at Kings Meadow in Reading, Berkshire. Brian Wright, chairman of the Countryside Society, said the site, which runs for 500 yards by the Thames, was being replanted with non-native trees by the council to make maintenance easier. "It is a case of making life easier for the authorities rather than the wildlife."

Wiped clean

An investigation is under way after claims that computer hackers are wiping motorists' penalty points from the DVLC computer in Swansea. The hackers are charging £100 for each penalty point removed, according to *Police Review* magazine. The transport department said people were having driving records wiped and then applying for new documents, claiming the old ones were lost.

Free bank notes from The Times

A BRAZILIAN 1,000-cruzeiro note is given away in *The Times* today which collectors will be able to add to the Peruvian 1,000-cruzeiro note given with *The Sunday Times Magazine* yesterday. The notes, along with two given away last week, can be mounted in a special album which will be given away in *The Sunday Times Magazine* next Sunday.

On February 2 details of how to obtain a presentation wallet of further notes for the collection will be published.

Readers who did not receive their bank note with today's paper should send their request on a postcard addressed to Promotions Department, PO Box 481, Virginia Street, London E1 9BD, or telephone 071 867 0404 between 1pm and 5pm.

Murder shatters a quiet village

By Edward Gorman, Ireland Correspondent

THE small Protestant community of Doagh, Co Antrim, is not a troubled place. Its people and way of life are perhaps more Scottish than Irish — some still speak with a hint of a Scottish accent — and its culture is British.

The troubles have barely touched it in 21 years, despite the fact that the community is just 12 miles north of Belfast. Occasionally people from the village have been caught up in the violence. In 1970 a lorry driver got into a vehicle and was killed by an IRA boobytrap not intended for him.

But the troubles became less remote when Richard McConnell, from one of the oldest families in the village, was killed along with six of his workmates by the IRA bomb on the road between Cookstown and Omagh on Friday night.

Richard, who was 38, was well known in the community, but he was a quiet man who never patronised McConnell's bar, owned by his cousin Anne Hall, in the centre of the village.

His family — sons aged 11 and 12, daughter aged 14, and wife Janet, a part-time nurse at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast — were his main interest in life. For years he was employed by the local health authority as

an ambulance driver ferrying old people in the area and from hospital, until two years ago when he decided to drive a crane for a local building company.

In McConnell's on Saturday night, a mile from Richard's terrace home on the edge of the village where relatives shielded his family from reporters' inquiries, the locals expressed the community's shock at his death.

David Agnew, aged 26, is a lorry driver and distant cousin of Richard. Like everyone else he had found out only that morning that Richard had been one of the victims. "It's a tragedy it happened to him; a quiet person you wouldn't know. He would do anything for you. He had time for everybody."

Richard's cousin Anne, chain-smoking behind the bar, was tearful. "I don't know about anybody else but I'm just numb," she whispered. "It hasn't really sunk in yet. People are getting killed every day. To me, it's part of everyday life. It's when it happens close to home it really hits."

There was anger, too, not only at the IRA but at what many in communities like Doagh see as the government's failure to protect citizens like Richard in its war in Northern Ireland.

Another man said: "It breaks my heart to say it at the minute, but I think they [the IRA] have the upper hand, because we are not able to do anything about it. Britain is doing what it is allowed within the law but I think the law is all wrong in this situation because this is a war."

The local Presbyterian minister, the Rev Sam McClintock, who has spent the weekend comforting the McConnell family and preparing for Richard's funeral tomorrow, said his community was deep in shock and sadness.

"The sensible people realise that it's almost impossible to stop," he said. "Mr Brooke has been doing all that he can — what more can he do? What can all these soldiers do?"

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Child care voucher scheme considered

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

THE Treasury is seriously considering a voucher scheme for child care, offering tax relief for both employers and employees, as a fillip for working mothers in the Budget.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, has come under growing pressure from ministers to extend present tax relief for workplace nurseries to include those outside company premises.

As Chancellor, John Major introduced the present limited tax relief for child care in his 1989 Budget. However, it is understood that fewer than 5,000 women have taken up the scheme, mainly because of the restrictions of using company nurseries. Smaller firms have not had the resources to provide child care, particularly where only a few women would use them.

Under the new scheme, vouchers would be offered to working mothers for use towards child care costs in and outside the workplace.

Ministerial sources made clear yesterday that the scheme would have to be carefully regulated to avoid abuse and to ensure that help was directed to those most in need. Nurseries would have to be registered to ensure that women were not merely giving vouchers "to their mother in law", one source said.

This week, Angela Rumbold, home office minister, will urge Mr Lamont to

present a better deal for working mothers in the Budget. Mrs Rumbold, who chairs the ministerial group on women's issues, will use her meeting with the Chancellor to press for a more limited voucher scheme to cover child care after school hours and during the holidays.

Mrs Rumbold said yesterday that she would be delighted if tax relief were extended to a wider provision of child care but feared that it could be too expensive. "I shall be pressing for extensions on tax matters for women with children. Although I favour an after-school-hours scheme, I would be happy with extending the employers' tax relief."

Mrs Rumbold has made rough costings of her scheme. After-school care costs £10-£15 a week for each child, and holiday care costs £45 a week. To cover 2.5 million children the scheme would cost £5 million, she said.

MPs and peers have been lobbied by professional women who have complained that Mr Major's promises of a better deal for women have not been translated into action. The prime minister is understood to favour extending tax relief for working mothers, and other ministers recognise the value of such a sweetener before the election.

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Britain plans CAP reform

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

BRITAIN is planning to use its period in the EC presidency from July to seek a thoroughgoing reform of the common agricultural policy, reducing farm support to levels much closer to world prices.

Papers are already being prepared in Downing Street which would build on preliminary reform efforts already started in the EC. But no detailed plans will emerge until after the completion of the Gatt round in February/March because that process itself will have a significant effect on the future shape of the EC farming industry.

John Major said yesterday that the three objectives for Britain's period in the EC chair would be the enlargement of the Community, the completion of the single European market by the end of 1992 and the reform of CAP.

The common agricultural policy, which devours more than 60 per cent of the whole EC budget, and drives up consumer prices by depending on support payments to farmers and levies on food imported into the EC, has been the despair of British governments over many years, but Mr Major believes he now has some leverage to apply.

The Portuguese, in the presidency until the end of June, are beginning discussions on reforming EC finances but are unlikely to complete the process in their six months. At Maastricht last December, the EC heads committed themselves to a new "cohesion fund" to give assistance to the poorer EC nations, (Spain, Portugal, Ireland and Greece) in meeting the extra costs involved in the political and monetary union treaties. But no new finances were agreed for it.

Pupils reluctant to stay on after 16

By David Tytler, Education Editor

SIXTEEN is still the most popular age for leaving school in spite of government attempts to persuade more teenagers to stay on or enter full-time training, according to a survey published today.

Although there has been a gradual improvement in the past 10 years, only half of 16-year-olds stay on in full-time or part-time education or training, against 79 per cent in France, 82 per cent in Germany and 89 per cent in the United States and Japan.

The survey of 505 16- to 19-year-olds by NOW-Research for *Reader's Digest* and the BBC shows that 63 per cent were no longer in full-time education. Of those, only a third were in jobs providing training and 20 per cent were unemployed.

Six out of ten surveyed said that they had left school because they wanted to earn some money, and four out of ten said that they had left because they did not like school. More than one in ten said that they had not worked hard enough to gain qualifications or that they had not been encouraged by teachers.

Sir John Banham, director-general of the Confederation

of British Industry, said: "The reform Britain most urgently needs in the 1990s is in our national attitude to vocational education and training."

Both the government and Labour say that they want to break down the vocational/academic divide and simplify the range of qualifications. Almost four out of ten school-leavers interviewed agreed, saying that linking lessons with jobs might have encouraged them to stay on. A quarter of those surveyed said that they had been put off by the confusing range of courses.

A third of the teenagers interviewed said that they might have stayed on if they had known that better qualifications meant better jobs.

Some schools may "massage" attendance figures in order to make their truancy rates seem lower now that they are required to compile annual figures, for first publication next August, a report from a teachers' union says today. The Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association also says that teachers are not being given clear guidance on what constitutes unauthorised absence.

Why did you leave school as soon as you could?	%
Wanted to earn some money	60
Didn't like school	39
Didn't want to study any more	29
Offered a job	23
Believe experience counts more than qualifications	23
Didn't do well enough at school	14
Friends weren't staying	12
Didn't work hard enough for qualifications to stay on	11
No qualifications needed for the job I wanted	11
Teachers didn't encourage me to stay on	11
Parents wanted me to earn	8
Didn't think I'd pass exams if I stayed	8
Parents didn't encourage me to stay on	8

What might have made you stay on at school?	%
More enjoyable experience of learning at school	46
Lessons linked with jobs	36
Course credits bit by bit	35
Knowing better qualifications meant better jobs	34
More guidance at school	32
Knowing better qualifications meant higher earnings	24
More information about courses available	24
Less confusing range of qualifications to choose from	18
Knowing employers offer jobs only to the qualified	15
More encouragement from parents to stay on	8

Now Research interviewed a nationally representative sample of 505 16 to 19 year olds at the end of September 1991.

Man Tories loved to hate resigns

By Craig Seton

DAVID Bookbinder, Labour leader of Derbyshire county council and bete noire of the Conservative party, announced yesterday that he was quitting his post.

Mr Bookbinder, aged 50, said he would not seek re-election as leader of the council's controlling Labour group at a meeting on March 29. He will continue to work as a county councillor.

Mr Bookbinder said that his decision to quit as Labour leader after 15 years had been influenced by the Gov-

ernment's charge-capping of the council more than a year ago. This had led to cuts in services that had pained him, such as school meals prices which had been frozen for ten years, home helps provided free and meals on wheels costing only 35p each.

The Labour group took control from the Conservatives in 1981 after four years in opposition. Mr Bookbinder was leader of the council during most of the premiership of Margaret Thatcher and he will be delighted to have ousted her.

Mr Bookbinder acknowledged yesterday that he had been regarded by Tories as a member of the hard left. He said: "It would have been very much worse if the Tories had liked me."

He recounted with relish issues that had initially been ridiculed by Tories. His council had banned caning in schools more than a decade ago, but it was a policy that was now the norm. It had campaigned on behalf of the Birmingham Six and Nelson Mandela, all since released from prison. It had also taken a stand on animal rights and performing animals in circuses, before such things became fashionable. It had also supported striking miners during the pit strike of 1984-85.

His council was condemned in 1984 for suspending the late Alf Parrish, the then Derbyshire chief constable, for allegedly spending more than £20,000 on refurbishing his office without the authority's permission. Mr Parrish was later retired on medical grounds, amid claims that he had been the victim of an anti-police council.

Mr Bookbinder was involved in a wholesale confectionery company before taking up politics almost full time, including four unsuccessful attempts to become a Labour MP in Tory-held Derbyshire seats.

He said he hoped now to become involved in enterprise initiatives in the county and added: "I need to go out and make a living. I think I have a flair for economic development, working with both sides of industry, including the private sector."

He added: "I did what I was elected to do, but I did not enjoy the parts of it that involved character assassination."



Bookbinder: pained by cuts in council services

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Maxwell 'had threatened to liquidate pension fund'

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ROBERT Maxwell threatened to liquidate the Mirror Group Pension Fund in 1985 after refusing to allow members of the pension scheme to nominate half the trustees, it emerged yesterday.

In written evidence to the Commons social security select committee investigating the pension fund, the Graphical, Paper and Media Union says that union representatives expressed concern over the pension fund at a meeting with Mr Maxwell on May 23, 1985.

The representatives said that they were worried about the disposal of pension surplus and the establishment of a common investment fund. They also requested rights to nominate half the trustees and to have an independent trust chairman.

"Maxwell responded that he was the owner of the fund and had full control of it," the evidence says. "He would not be dictated to as to who would be trustees. If it was insisted on, he would liquidate the fund. He refused to discuss the possibility of him not being the chairman of the scheme."

The union will give oral evidence to the select committee this afternoon, together with working and retired members of the Mirror Group pension scheme. These include Margaret Jones, a retired employee, Eric Leggett, a journalist with *The People*, John Grewcock, a member of the scheme, and Peter Kane, a journalist on the *Daily Mirror* who has threatened legal action against the present trustees because of restrictions imposed on transfer rights and early retirement.

The all-party committee will also hear from Fletton, a company which was part of Maxwell Communications Corporation for 17 months in the late 1980s. It is understood that up to 400 former employees have been told that there is no money left in their pension fund.

Oral evidence from the union will be heard from Bill

Harding and Bert Ball, pensioners, and four union representatives. In its written submission, expected to be published today, the union says that while Maxwell had control of the MGN pension fund, representation of employees had been eroded. In 1988, for example, John Northwood, a member of the former Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, was removed from the board of trustees because he was made redundant. The union put forward a replacement, Neil White, but he was not accepted.

The union also made requests in 1989 for actuarial valuations and was given one for April 1985. After interventions by solicitors the 1988 valuation was made available, days before a court application in March 1990.

The social security committee is meeting in private tomorrow to draw up some of the questions which it intends to put in writing to Robert Maxwell's sons, Ian and Kevin.

After their refusal to answer MP's questions last week, the committee has agreed to a suggestion by their lawyers to submit the questions in writing before calling them again.

Frank Field, committee chairman, said he did not anticipate a response from the brothers until they had received the questions. He dismissed reports that they had already told MPs that they would not attend for a second time.

The committee expects the brothers to read out written answers, without accepting supplementary questions. Last week, the committee stressed that the answers would be made public.

Mr Field said last night that he would try to find out from all the witnesses how millions of pounds went missing from the fund, and the best way of retrieving the

New chairman, page 19
Comment, page 21



Key precision: Mark Croxford of Hackney, east London, practising before the British ice sculpture team's weekend departure to compete in the World Snow Festival at Grindelwald, Switzerland. Twelve teams will be given a week to sculpture blocks of ice

Rail fare-dodgers risk instant penalty

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

ON-THE-SPOT penalty fares take effect today on British Rail's south London and Oxford services, in an effort to reduce the scope for fare-dodging.

Passengers caught without a valid ticket or a convincing reason for not having one will be liable to a £10 penalty fare or the full single fare to the next station, whichever is the greater, BR said.

Passengers unable to pay immediately will be required to give ticket inspectors their name and address. They will be sent notice of a penalty fare which must be paid within 21 days. Refusal to co-operate with the scheme will be a criminal offence.

The scheme covers all stations on the south London suburban lines, stations on the Oxford lines, which run to Uckfield and East Grinstead, and all long-distance Sussex coast services travelling to and from the new penalty fares area. Translink services between north and south London are also included in the regulations.

Teams of revenue protection officers will carry out on-

train ticket inspections and give extra assistance to passengers. Stations within penalty fare areas have been equipped with ticket machines from which passengers can buy a "permit to travel" in case the booking office is closed or self-service ticket machines are out of order. The permit to travel must, however, be converted into a

proper ticket within two hours of issue.

An experimental penalty fares scheme introduced on the London, Tilbury and Southend line in 1990 generated income of more than £4 million in its first year.

Fraudulent travel costs Network SouthEast an estimated £35 million a year, the equivalent of 18 new trains.

John Nelson, the newly ap-

pointed managing director of Network SouthEast, said: "In introducing penalty fares, we are acting in the best interests of our customers, helping to prevent them from unwittingly subsidising the dishonest minority."

Eventually, the penalty fares scheme would be extended throughout the Network SouthEast region, he said.

Churchill sword stolen at Chartwell

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

A CEREMONIAL sword presented by an Arab potentate to Winston Churchill in 1945 has been stolen from Chartwell, the wartime prime minister's former Kent home.

The 40in sword was taken from a wall above a door at the house, which is run by the National Trust. The sword, in a gold mounted scabbard with gilt hilt set with diamonds, was presented to Churchill by King Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia at the 1945 Crimean conference.

Peter Battrick, a trust spokesman, said yesterday that it was worth only £13,000 "in terms of its materials" but was "irreplaceable" because of its associations.

The sword was taken in broad daylight during public opening hours last November 29. It had been on display with Churchill's uniforms. "Nobody saw anything," Mr Battrick said.

Police believe that at least three thieves were involved: one standing on another's shoulders to remove the sword and a third to distract the steward. They would have needed a few minutes to unscrew it from the wall.

Officers suspect that the sword may have been stolen to order. Security at Chartwell has been tightened.

Mr Battrick said that the sword could have been hidden under a large coat. "Somehow it was walked out."

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Dioceses lose out as Church tightens purse strings

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE cost of running the Church of England has risen from £1 million a day to £1.5 million in the past five years, a report to be published this summer is expected to say. The increase will be disclosed as the Church Commissioners prepare dioceses for further cuts in the money they can give towards clergy pay.

The commissioners have already reduced the money

they are giving to dioceses by £4 million in the 1992-3 financial year to £43.8 million. At meetings with the 43 dioceses in England next month, they are expected to give warning that the cut in the following financial year will be £5.5 million.

The commissioners, who have invested heavily in property development, have been hit by the recession. It will cost up to £500 million

to run the church this year, up from £340 million in 1986. About a third is met by income from the £2.5 billion historic assets held by the commissioners. Most of the remainder must come from giving by the one million church members.

The report will show that giving has risen to more than £200 million a year, but that church members still give less than the 5 per cent of net income called for by the general synod in 1982. On average, each member gives about £3 a week.

Parish quotas, the amount each parish is asked to give its diocese to help towards clergy pay and other expenses, have risen well above inflation. The highest percentage increase is in the Birmingham diocese, where parishes have been asked to find an average of 31 per cent more. If church members fail to give more there will be a fall in the standard of living among clergy, or cuts in clergy numbers. Some dioceses are digging into their reserves to avoid a shortfall. In Lincoln, one in ten clergy jobs is to go.

A spokesman for the commissioners said the proportion that they could give dioceses towards stipends was falling from 48 per cent in 1990 to about 40 per cent. The priority is to pay the pensions of 10,100 retired clergy and widows. "If average giving rose from £3 a week to £3.50 a week per member over the whole country, this adjustment could be achieved fairly smoothly," he said.

Work to bring about Christian unity will be ineffective unless it is based upon prayer, Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, said yesterday. Cardinal Hume was preaching at Canterbury Cathedral at the beginning of Christian unity week. He referred only obliquely to the coming vote on the ordination of women which, if successful, could hinder unity.

Christian unity, page 14



Hard times: Mr Andrews was astonished at rise

Parish pays £23,000 quota by instalment

THE parish of St Just in Roseland, Cornwall, only just made ends meet last year after paying its £11,000 quota to Truro diocese (Ruth Gledhill writes).

The rector, the Rev Bob Andrews, expected a 20 per cent increase in his parish's contribution this year. His parochial church council was, therefore, astonished to be presented with a bill for £23,000. The increase of 109 per cent arose because the method of calculation changed.

Technically, the quota or "common fund" payments are voluntary, but are per-

ceived in many parishes as a tax. St Just made almost £39,000 in 1990. Out of that came £7,000 for a gardener, £3,600 donations to missions and charities, and £17,000 to repair tree damage caused by the winter storms. More was spent on church repairs. Thousands more are needed for church repairs this year.

The parochial church council, which does not want to cut its donations to the church mission, has decided to pay half the new quota in monthly payments for six months and then to review the position.

People are paying up, survey shows

Poll tax rebellion fails to materialise

BY DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

FEARS that the decision to abolish the community charge would lead to a surge in non-payment appear to have been groundless, according to the latest figures from councils in England.

Councils which did best in collecting the tax in its first year are on course to do as well this year in spite of a late start because of the Chancellor's decision to cut £140 off poll tax bills, a survey by *The Times* has found.

Although collection rates remain lower than under the rates, when at least four-fifths of the income would have been collected by now, there was no sign of a rebellion

against the tax in its dying months. By contrast, in Scotland, where the charge was introduced in 1989, its second year of operation saw a steady decline in the number of people paying.

The *Times* survey found no sign that the pattern was being repeated south of the border although almost all of the 20 councils surveyed had collected less by the end of December 1991 than they had in the same period in 1990. Much of the shortfall is because most councils issued their bills late last year after the Budget announcement that £140 would be taken off poll tax bills by adding 2.5

per cent to Value Added Tax. Although some were able to act swiftly, many, especially in London and other big cities, found it impossible to re-issue bills before at least May, delaying the start of their instalment payment systems.

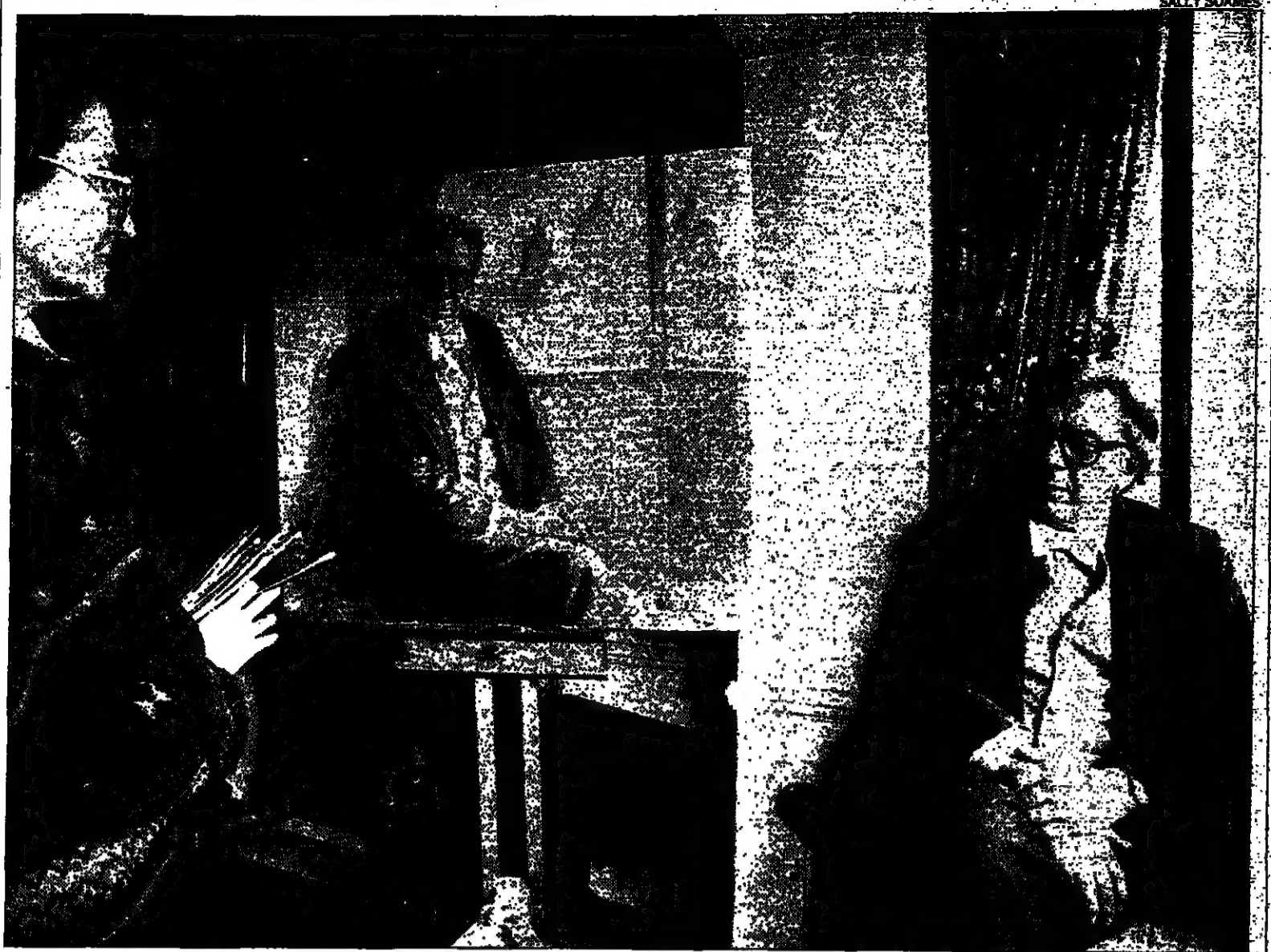
Last July the government issued a league table of councils ranked according to effectiveness in collecting the tax. The *Times* survey sought to measure the performance of those at the top and bottom.

Among those who did well in the first year, their rate of collection has been slightly worse in the second, a fact that they blamed on the delayed start. The best improvement was by Labour-controlled Islington in north London, which was among the worst ten in the first year but which had collected 78 per cent of its income by the end of December, against 51 per cent by the same time in 1990.

Its improved performance was partly accounted for by a decision last April to budget for a 90 per cent collection rate. The survey asked for the percentage of budgeted income received rather than the proportion of the total due.

Most councils have budgeted to receive from 90 to 95 per cent of the total due and that accounts for the fact that those who did best in the first year achieved collection rates of over 100 per cent.

Council	% collected Jan to Dec 91	% collected Jan to Dec 90	% in full year 1990-1
Top ten 1990-1			
Castle Morphet	80	n/a	118
Westminster	86	91	113
Cannock Chase	70	90	110
Copeland	73	92	105
Kensington/Chelsea	63	n/a	105
N Bedfordshire	63	74	105
Maldon	80	80	105
Scarborough	71	85	105
Wyre Forest	76	81	104
Gateshead	n/a	81	104
Bottom ten 1990-1			
Greenwich	n/a	61	77
Bristol	59	70	75
Birmingham	n/a	55	75
Southampton	n/a	68	74
Waltham Forest	n/a	51	72
Newham	40	51	71
Islington	78	51	69
Liverpool	33	n/a	68
Lambeth	n/a	52	67
Hackney	55	40	55



Gallant knight Sir Robin Day, displaying the courtesy and charm sometimes lacking from his grilling of leading politicians on television and radio, sitting for the artist June Mendoza and the photographer Sally Soames.

Both women have had long-standing plans to portray the distinguished journalist, who arranged to fulfil their ambitions at the same time at his flat in Westminster. After the latest sitting, Mendoza said: "We talked about the project for about five years. It was a matter of finding the time."

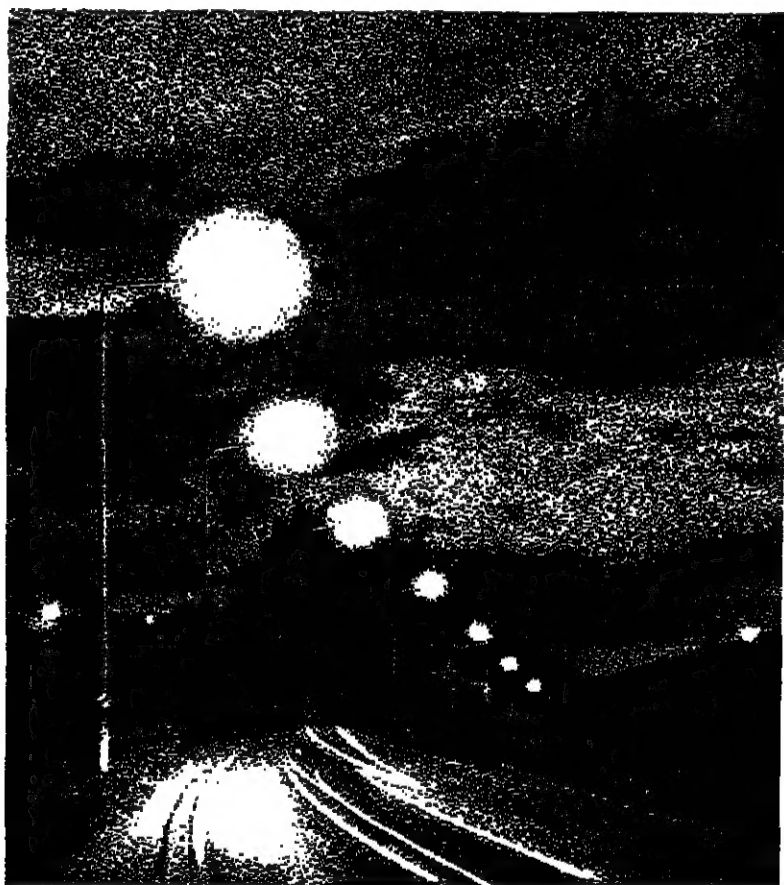
"We had about six or seven two-hour sittings. He was absolutely co-

operative, charming, amusing and courteous. We listened to old records and it was enormously pleasant. I am doing the background now and we are going out to lunch this week to celebrate finishing it."

Soames added: "June is very talented. She uses oils and paints straight onto the canvas without

making a drawing." Mendoza's portrait, which will be on show in May at the Royal Society of Portrait Painters exhibition, captures Sir Robin's narrowed-eyed look, but his relaxed half-smile shows a much less formidable side than that remembered by those who have acquainted under his incisive questioning.

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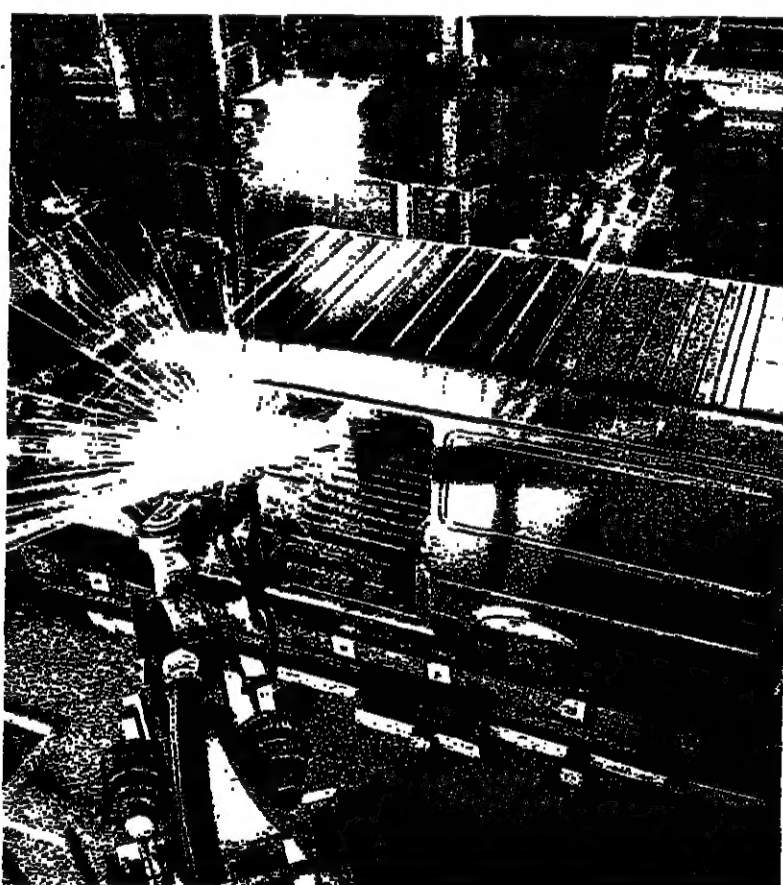
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SOUTHERN ELECTRIC

Nationalists give Lang rough ride over devolution

IF IAN Lang, the Scottish secretary, once believed that Scotland's constitutional future was a dead issue, a rumbustious debate in front of more than 2,500 people in Edinburgh's Usher Hall on Saturday night will have changed his mind.

The debate on the way Scotland should be governed, organised by *The Scotsman* newspaper, was the first time that all four Scottish party leaders had come together to argue their corner in front of a live audience. Tickets for the event could have been distributed twice over. *Scotland: A Time to Choose*, as the debate was labelled, marked the start of unofficial campaigning for the general election north of the border.

Mr Lang offered no concessions to demands for devolution or independence despite polls which have shown that four out of five voters want constitutional change. His claim that Scotland had flourished under the 300-year-old union with England was drowned in a roar of contempt.

Mr Lang said that a tax-raising Scottish parliament would thrust Scotland headlong into total separation from England, leaving it over-governed, over-taxed and on the periphery of the world's stage to face economic stagnation.

The audience gave a rousing reception to Alex Salmond, the Scottish National Party leader. Donald Dewar, Labour's Scottish spokesman, extolled the virtues of a devolved assembly within the union. "We are offering the most radical change in the constitution in 300 years," he said. There were boos and jeers as the audience demanded that he

Devolution is not dead: Kerry Gill witnesses a passionate debate on a subject close to Scottish hearts

name a single industry that Labour had saved in the past 12 years and to say who had stopped the poll tax.

Mr Lang asked Malcolm Bruce, the Scottish Liberal Democrat leader, to list any problems he foresaw in devolution. "Only people like you who won't give us devolution," was the reply.

As no vote was taken there was no clear winner. Mr Bruce received the most polite response. Mr Lang was obviously relieved that there was no vote.

Labour is maintaining its huge electoral dominance in Scotland with a 23-point lead over the Tories, a Mori opinion poll indicated yesterday. The poll gave Labour 47 per cent of the vote, the Tories 24 per cent, the Scottish National Party 20 per cent, and the Lib Dems 7 per cent.

Leading article, page 13



Salmond: loud cheers from the audience

Freedom palls for escaped convict

BY MICHAEL HORNSNELL

FEWER than four hours on the run persuaded Mark Nock that the warm prison cell from which he had just escaped was preferable to the cold streets of freedom.

So, as a search for him began, the bedraggled convict banged on the gates of Gloucester jail shouting "Let me back in".

"He came back because we're so nice here," Patrick Osborn, duty controller of the prison, said yesterday. "He was tired and wet and couldn't find his way out of Gloucester. He didn't know where to go and decided the best course would be to come back where he would be warm and dry. He's a bit crestfallen now."

Nock, aged 19, serving a three-year sentence for theft imposed at Worcester crown court, made three daring leaps to escape on Saturday night after climbing out of a hole that builders had left in a roof.

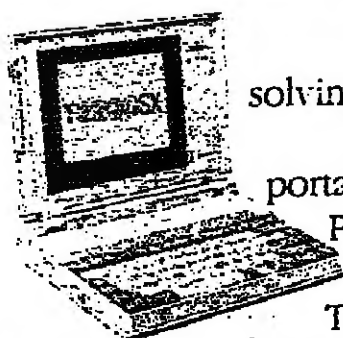
Nock, from Dudley, West Midlands, jumped 15ft down on to a bridge between two wings of the jail, and then jumped about 20ft from the bridge to the ground, before climbing a drainpipe inside the prison wall and leaping about 25ft from the wall, landing in a skip of rubbish.

A homeless man aged 30 who allegedly broke into the magistrates' court at Weymouth, Dorset, is to appear there today accused of criminal damage.

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Gummer yields to pleas on guarding New Forest

THE New Forest, one of England's most beautiful but most threatened areas, is to be given national park status in a policy U-turn by the government. John Gummer, the agriculture minister, who turned the idea down less than two years ago, has been won round by a compromise which will give the forest the legal protection of the 1949 National Parks Act — the highest protection for a scenic area — without the standard administrative machinery, such as a national park board acting as planning authority. A similar arrangement was made for the Norfolk Broads in 1989.

The ancient hunting preserve of the Norman kings will not be called a national park but will have its own constitution to preserve its powerful vestiges of medieval government. The new status will be announced tomorrow by David Trippier, the environment and countryside minister.

The forest will have the same legal protection as the ten national parks in England and Wales, with a statutory administrative body and

A conferring of national park status will preserve the legacy of kings and rights of commoners, Michael McCarthy writes

government funding. The status and resources are considered essential if the blend of broadleaved woodland and lowland heath, rich in wildlife, is to be preserved into the next century from development and the decline of commoning, the grazing of ponies and other livestock which is largely responsible for maintaining the forest's character.

Oil companies have already eyed the forest with drilling in mind; power sta-

tions and road schemes may be planned in future years. The forest is sandwiched between Southampton and Bournemouth, eight million people visit it yearly and 20 million are within two hours' drive.

Authority will continue to be exercised by the Forestry Commission over Crown lands at the heart of the forest, by the New Forest District Council over planning and by the ancient court of Verderers, a ten-strong body which guards the forest and the interests of the commoners, local people who pasture their animals in the woodlands by right. The power of the verderers is real: they have a veto over the release of Crown land for development.

Alongside these authorities, a statutory body will be established, broadly based on the New Forest committee, a coordinating group set up in 1990 which has had considerable success in defusing the tensions between agriculture, recreation and nature conservation interests. The new body will have a large budget, 75 per cent of it probably

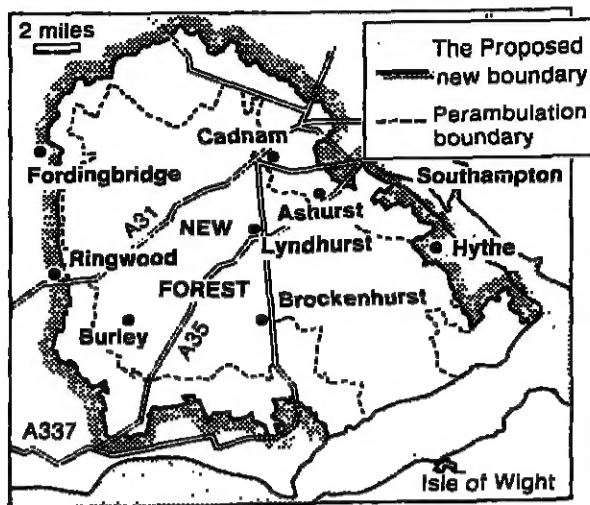
funded by the government.

One of the principal uses for the money will probably be help for the commoners, now down to 250. Their free-roaming ponies are the forest's most familiar sight, but all their livestock, including cattle, sheep and pigs, maintain its open character by grazing. However, com-

moning is no longer economic and cottages with rights are often sold to outsiders who do not take them up. "It's not a very profitable operation, it's just a way of life," said Jimmy Winter, a fourth-generation commoner. He turns nearly 200 head of cattle into the forest and an unspecified number of po-

nies — "No commoner will tell you how many ponies he's got" — and would welcome financial help. The man most pleased by tomorrow's announcement is likely to be Maldwyn Drummond, the landowner and former senior verderer who chairs the New Forest committee and who led the lobby-

ing for the move. "The New Forest is the finest piece of lowland landscape in Britain," he said. "If I had to put its value into a word, I would say 'peace'. There are very few places in southern Britain where you can hear the silence, and where the natural environment has the power to overwhelm."



New Forest ranger: one of the wandering ponies whose grazing shapes the woodland's character

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Hopes rise on blood disease

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SOME of the first Britons to undergo gene therapy, given government approval last week, could be those with haemophilia B, a rare inherited disease that inhibits blood clotting. The treatment replaces missing or defective genes with healthy ones.

An agreement between Genetic Therapy, an American biotechnology company, and the British Technology Group in London, which supports and licenses research world-wide, gives the US firm the rights to research from teams at Oxford and Washington universities. They recently located the gene that controls production of factor IX, a blood protein, and unravelled its structure.

People with haemophilia B — about 15 per cent of haemophiliacs — either produce too little or none of the protein because the vital gene is defective or missing. They can suffer uncontrolled bleeding if cut or bruised, and bleeding around the joints even after light exercise. At present they have to take transfusions of factor IX, made from concentrated human blood donations, which puts them at risk of diseases including AIDS and herpes.

Gene therapy offers the chance of the missing factor being produced continuously, overcoming the problem of bleeding joints.

Doctors seek vote on action

Junior doctors are demanding that the British Medical Association council agree to a ballot on industrial action over "slow progress" in moves to cut long hours. A conference in London at the weekend agreed to ask all 29,000 junior doctors to vote on providing an emergency-only service in selected hospitals. The proposal has to be agreed by the council, which meets next in March.

The conference accepted a pay deal announced last month giving juniors higher overtime pay as "the best that could be expected".

Two charged

Two men are due at Jedburgh sheriff court today accused of the attempted murder, and serious assault of two policemen. PC Ian Hope and PC Andrew Brockie received stab wounds after attending a disturbance at Galashiels, Borders, early yesterday.

Tyre fire

A big fire at an illegal tyre dump was being investigated by police yesterday. Over 100 firemen fought the 100ft flames at Kelly Bray, near Callington, Cornwall.

Bond winners

Premium Bond winners this week: £100,000, bond 22PL 355435, from Norwich (£62 hold- ing); £50,000, 24DS 107743, Northumbria (£10,000); £25,000, 13HK 175554, Welwyn (£10,000).

Tolstoy bridges classics gap

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA
DONATIONS for Book Aid's national appeal week which begins today have already been pouring in, including a 20-volume set on psychology. It remains to be seen, however, whether contributors will be able to cap the campaign's most unlikely achievement to date: bringing Tolstoy to the Russians. A total of 800 large print English translation copies of *War and Peace* were among the first donations made after the charity was set up in September. The copies were included in 12,800 books for the partially sighted, donated by Ulverscroft Large Print Books Ltd of Anstey, Leicester.

At 180 words a page, the large print Tolstoy is more likely to strain the arm muscles than the eyes. Each copy fills five volumes and is being distributed by the Library for Foreign Literature, Book Aid's partner in Moscow, where classics in translation are much prized by those learning English.

Roger Graef, the founder of Book Aid, said that Ulverscroft's donation was perhaps the most precious gift received by the charity. The Russians themselves do not have many facilities for the visually impaired, so the value of these books cannot possibly be exaggerated.

BOOK AID
10 million books to Russia and the Republics
Garden, Hampstead, Kingston upon Thames, Notting Hill Gate, Richmond, Wimbledon; Aldershot; Bath (415 Milson St); Birmingham; Bournemouth; Brighton; Bristol (The Galleries); Broadmead; Canterbury; Cheltenham; Edinburgh (Princes St and George St); Eastbourne; Exeter; Glasgow (Princes St); Guildford (North St); Lancaster; Leeds (19197); London (St. Mark's); Liverpool (52 Bold St); Manchester (Deansgate); Newcastle; Norwich (St. Stephens St); Nottingham; Perth; Preston; Sheffield; Shrewsbury; Stratford-upon-Avon; Swindon; Winchester; Worcester; York. Books will be collected during the week and brought to London by TNT. Larger book donations: Book Aid warehouse (071 713 7258). Please do not send books to The Times. Cheques payable to Book Aid may be sent c/o Waterstone's Ltd, 37 Linc. Pl. London SW3 3QH. Donors and volunteers will be entered into a draw: first prize, return flight to St. Petersburg or Moscow, donated by Barry Martin Travel; second prize, case of wine donated by Oddbins; five runners-up, £20 book vouchers each, donated by Waterstone's; winners will be contacted by February 14.

Help by the reins, page 12

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Matters of life and death and money

A NEW migraine treatment would cost the national health service more than £1 billion a year if made available to all sufferers. A newly synthesised hormone to help short children to grow would cost £80,000 a child. A promising treatment for septicaemia, which affects 25,000 Britons a year, would add over £100 million to hospital bills.

This snapshot of reports published in a single week in two medical journals from among the 30,000 appearing around the world, *The Lancet* and the *British Medical Journal*, illustrates the magnitude of the pressures on the health service and the inevitability of rationing. They show

New medical treatments could consume Britain's gross national product.
Jeremy Lawrence describes the dilemma

how advances in medical treatment could consume Britain's gross national product with ease. Doctors are having to make hard choices between different treatments, services, facilities — and patients.

The new drug Sumatriptan has proved so effective in treating migraine that GPs should "start familiarising themselves with its use", the current issue of *The Lancet* advises. But at £20 a treatment, it calculates that if the 10 per cent of the population estimated to suffer migraines were to use it once a month, the cost to the health service would be £1,344 billion. "The worry to those who pick up the bill," it concludes, "is that the vast horde of self-medicating patients (who have been buying preparations from pharmacists) will now come out of the woodwork."

The *Journal* says that the use of monoclonal antibodies — a type of drug — in treating

septicaemia could save 5,000 to 10,000 lives a year in Britain, but the cost of £100 million a year has already "caused alarm".

Another article concludes that injecting growth hormone into short children over ten years could provide a small boost to their final height at a cost of £80,000. "This hardly seems warranted," it says.

Last month the *Journal's* editor, Richard Smith, argued that rationing should be "explicit and rational", involving politicians and the public. He opposed the view, held by many doctors, that they alone should take the decisions. "The decline of paternalism and the rightful increase in demands for accountability mean that doctors cannot take such decisions alone."

Rationing already happens, but invisibly. Less than 3 per cent of those who might benefit from infertility treatment receive it, according to Robert Winston, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Hammersmith Hospital, west London, and most of them are paying.



Dawn watch: John Bateman keeps a look-out during his milk round in Stoke-on-Trent. Staffordshire police are supporting more than 150 milkmen in a scheme aimed at making life difficult for the city's criminals

Milkmen go on patrol

By CRAIG SETON

MILKMEN put crime prevention on their list of doorstep deliveries when they began their rounds in Stoke-on-Trent today at the start of a pilot scheme supported by Staffordshire police.

The force has trained more than 150 milkmen who will keep watch on houses and other properties in what is thought to be the first project of its kind in the country. The Dawn Patrol is aimed at capitalising on the role of milkmen as regular early-morning visitors to residential areas, where they may spot criminals at work while householders are asleep.

The milkmen, employed by Dale Farm, have been given a 10-point checklist to help them to recognise what may be criminal activity, and incident report cards. Residents have been asked to display the scheme's warning stickers.

Sergeant John Sims, a divisional crime prevention officer, said that milkmen had often helped police to prevent or solve crimes while on their rounds, and added: "We want to build on that relationship."

Video puts buyers in the picture

Lancashire: Estate agents with a fine line in patter and the ability to pass on piles of brochures could soon be redundant (Rachel Kelly writes). Potential buyers can now select houses for viewing after seeing their charms on video film.

The videos made by Keyhole Productions contain properties in a particular price range with several seconds devoted to each house, and background music and a silk-en-tongued voice-over. The cost is met by revenue from advertisements.

Crop squad

Colombo: Sri Lanka has set up a special paramilitary force to protect crops against wild boar and rabbits (AFP).

Flight of fancy

London: Love is in the air, according to a survey by ABC Executive Flight Planner. One in four executives view the person in the next seat as a potential marriage partner.

Cat call

Florida: Police who went to an apartment in Boynton Beach to find out why the 911 emergency number was being repeatedly dialled found a cat playing with a cordless phone. (AP)

Sub-standard

Delhi: India's road research institute says only 2 per cent of the country's 19,000 miles of main roads meet international standards. (Reuters)

Motor record

Beaulieu: The National Motoring Museum has appealed for people to search cupboards for sheet music, records or tapes for a collection on a motoring theme.

Speech defect

Madrid: The transport department lists applicants for driving tests conducted in Welsh under "disabled" because that computer section is the only one with extra space.

Publishers shun EC view of history

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA

BRITISH publishers have chosen to spurn a history book designed to coach schoolchildren in European perspectives which is due to appear in other parts of the European Community.

The *Histoire de l'Europe*, available across the Continent from March 25, assembles the thoughts of 12 historians from around Europe, and aims to help to encourage peaceful co-existence among tomorrow's Euro-citizens.

Dutch and French socialist MEPs originally suggested that the work be added to the EC's agenda, arguing that existing histories were prone to nationalistic bias and that students of history needed material "to stimulate an awareness of belonging to a single political entity".

The text, masterminded by the French publishing company Hachette, has yet to find a taker in this country, but George Robertson, opposition spokesman on European affairs, said yesterday that the idea had potential. "I don't think it should be imposed, but it's the sort of thing that would be useful in a broad-based approach to history," he said.

However, other British politicians have been less than receptive. Hugh McMahon, Labour MEP for Strathclyde West, described the idea as "Euro-culture gone berserk". Teddy Taylor, Tory MP for Southend East, said that any step to introduce the book to British schools should be strongly resisted. "We have a long tradition in this country that schools are used in the dissemination of knowledge and not for propaganda," he said.

Leading article, page 13

Duchess flies home

The Duchess of York returns today after a weekend of charity engagements in Florida. The duchess, who flew out on Thursday amid speculation over her friendship with a Texas oil tycoon, has three weeks before her next public engagement and is expected to spend time with her daughters Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie.



The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, has become patron of his own jazz club after admitting to having "catholic" tastes. Dr Carey said he was delighted to become patron of the monthly Sunday night jazz club in the bar of Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre.

Barry Tuckwell, one of the world's greatest French horn

The Princess of Wales is to be guest of honour at a star-studded charity tribute to Sammy Davis Jr, who died last year from cancer. Liza Minnelli is devising the one-night Royal Albert Hall spectacular. Organisers hope to raise £500,000 for the Royal Marsden Hospital cancer appeal and New York's Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre.

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Right-wing walkout from Shamir cabinet clouds outlook for Middle East negotiations

Arab refusal brings peace talks closer to collapse

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

THE fragile Middle East peace process came closer to collapse yesterday after plans for early elections in Israel and the refusal of at least two key Arab players to attend the crucial third round of multilateral talks due to begin in Moscow next week.

With Syria and Lebanon determined, despite Egyptian pressure, to boycott the meeting, Western officials fear the talks will prove ineffective in dealing with the regional issues to be discussed, such as scarce water and arms control, in which Syrian participation is vital. The Euphrates river plays a crucial role in water for the region. Of its 1,438 miles, 292 miles run through Syria.

This, plus alleged Israeli designs on water resources in southern Lebanon, means Syria and Lebanon are regarded as vital partners to any meaningful talks. Syria is also central to any attempt at the multilateral talks, expected to include Japan and the European Community as well, at progress on controlling the spread of weapons. Damascus is busy finding arms suppliers to replace the former Soviet Union.

Syria's decision not to attend, announced on Saturday after an abortive trip to Damascus by Amr Moussa, the Egyptian foreign minister, may prompt one of the 16 Arab states — plus the Palestinians — to follow suit. "Syria will not go to the multilateral talks because Israel is resisting peace and refusing to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories," a Syrian official said.

Some Arab moderates, notably King Hussein of Jordan, had hoped that relative success in Moscow might help break the deadlock in the bilateral negotiations between Israel, its Arab neighbours and the Palestinians. Following Syria's boycott, it was announced yesterday by Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, that representatives of all the Arab states would meet in Morocco on Friday to review their participation.

The PLO, which is not formally party to the talks, has yet to say whether it will authorise participation of a Palestinian delegation in Moscow. Arab diplomatic sources said yesterday it would be difficult for a num-

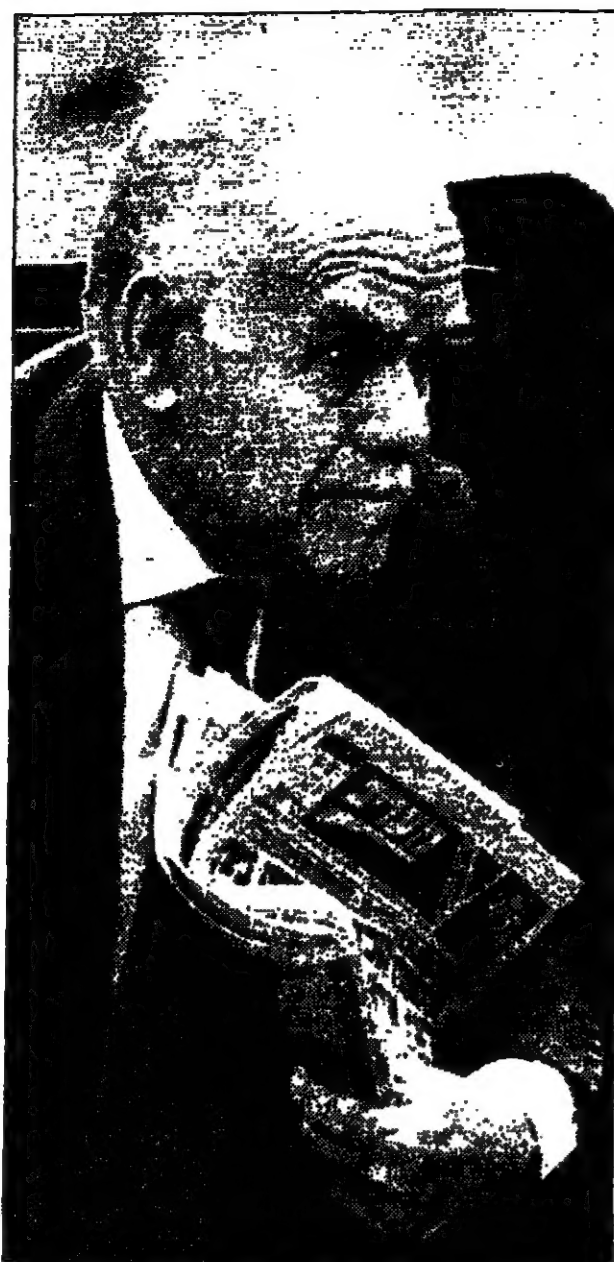
ber of the Arab states, notably Jordan, to attend if the Palestinians were absent. Adding to the growing mood of pessimism about the joint American and Russian initiative which began last October, Nabil Shaath, an adviser to Mr Arafat, gave a warning that the Palestinians would pull out if America provided Israeli housing loan guarantees worth \$10 billion (£5.6 billion). The postponed decision is due to be taken in Congress by the spring, after President Bush's plan last September that the loan be put off to assist the talks.

Another gloomy note came from Haider Abdel Shafi, leader of the Palestinian delegation, who said that the Palestinians would refuse to travel to Moscow unless progress on fundamental issues such as land and settlements was achieved. After two troubled sessions of the bilateral talks in Washington, no date or venue for the next round has yet been agreed.

Yesterday's resignation of two small right-wing parties from Israel's coalition government has increased already deep suspicions among Arabs that early elections in Israel are a ploy to slow down further the small's pace of the talks so far.

Claiming that the Palestinian autonomy plan which prompted the walkout did not meet "the simplest basic rights of the Palestinian people", the semi-official newspaper, *al-Qomhouriyah*, said that this plan had already been rejected after the Camp David peace treaty between Israel and Egypt in 1979.

Marjaryoun, Lebanon: Guerrilla bombs damaged two houses in Israel's self-declared security zone in south Lebanon, killing a village mayor and wounding a school head. The Islamic Resistance, a guerrilla coalition led by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah movement, said it attacked bases of Israelis and their local allies. (Reuters)



Cabinet cracks: Yitzhak Shamir, left, the Israeli prime minister, after receiving the resignations of two ministers, Rahavam Ze'evi and Yuval Neeman, above



Cabinet cracks: Yitzhak Shamir, left, the Israeli prime minister, after receiving the resignations of two ministers, Rahavam Ze'evi and Yuval Neeman, above

Israel envoy sees Bush decline as loans lever

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL tried yesterday to extricate itself from a potential diplomatic fiasco in its relations with Washington after a senior Israeli diplomat advised colleagues to take advantage of President Bush's unpopularity to press home claims for billions of dollars in American loan guarantees.

The four-page memorandum, which was obtained and leaked by Avraham Burg, an opposition Israeli MP, was written by Yoram Etinger, the minister at the Israeli embassy in Washington in charge of relations with Congress.

The document sets out the strategy that Israeli officials and American Jewish organisations should adopt in order to win support among Republican leaders and members of the Bush administration for approval this

month of \$10 billion (£5.6 billion) in loan guarantees that Israel has requested to help it absorb immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

The loan guarantees caused Israeli-American tension in September last year when President Bush delayed by 120 days consideration of the Israeli request and defied the powerful Jewish lobby in Congress because of concern over Israel's continued policy of building settlements in the occupied territories.

The move came amid growing strains on the previously excellent relations, caused not only by the right-wing policies of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, but also by a spate of corruption scandals involving senior Israeli offi-

cers working on joint military projects. Mr Etinger's memorandum advises colleagues to "exploit Bush's unpopularity" and try to drive a wedge between him and members of the Republican party who tend to support granting the guarantees to Israel. "As long as opinion polls show less support for the president, the independence and drive of senior officials and decision makers grows stronger," the document is quoted as saying.

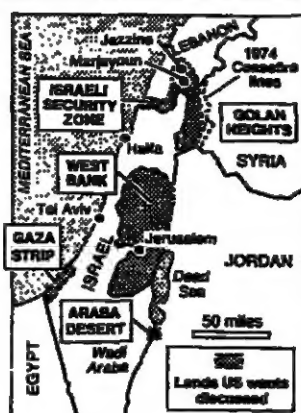
The diplomat advises the American Jewish community to bring its influence to bear on the loan guarantee issue. "The Jewish community's course of action heavily influences the opinion of legislators and campaign managers and their opinion influences the president," he says.

Mr Burg described the advice as "tantamount to interference in the domestic politics of the Republican party. He said: 'Just imagine that there is a man in the American embassy in Tel Aviv who proposes action to support [Israeli foreign minister] David Levy within the Likud government of Yitzhak Shamir. What would the Israeli public say about a situation like that?'

The Israeli foreign ministry described the memorandum as a confidential analysis and not a policy document. An official referred to Mr Etinger, who told Israeli radio: "We never called for incitement against the administration and I never called for a conflict with the administration."

tween Israel and Egypt in 1979.

Marjaryoun, Lebanon: Guerrilla bombs damaged two houses in Israel's self-declared security zone in south Lebanon, killing a village mayor and wounding a school head. The Islamic Resistance, a guerrilla coalition led by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah movement, said it attacked bases of Israelis and their local allies. (Reuters)

Coalition walkout, page 1
Leading article, page 13

India edges closer to full ties with Tel Aviv

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

YASSIR Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, arrives in Delhi today to seek assurances that India will not establish full diplomatic ties with Israel. He will be told that there are no immediate plans to do so. But it appears to be only a matter of time before Delhi opens an embassy in Tel Aviv, marking another important shift in foreign policy.

While India insists that its longstanding support for the Palestinian cause is not being diluted, it believes that there

are big advantages in developing closer ties with Israel because of shared concerns over Islamic fundamentalism and the military strength of the Arab world.

Delhi also wants to establish its right to be involved in the Middle East peace talks. America and Israel have made clear privately that that will require a commitment to full diplomatic relations with Israel first.

Another key reason for India's changing position is its urgent need for better relations with America after the

collapse of the Soviet Union, its most important military and economic partner. Delhi has been told in so many words that opening an embassy in Tel Aviv would be an important gesture that could clear the way for closer economic co-operation with Washington.

India, which opposed the formation of Israel but formally recognised its existence in 1950, put off Mr Arafat's visit for several months while it clarified its stand. It sent signals to America that it was willing to upgrade diplomatic

relations if it were given a role in the next round of the Middle East peace talks, due to begin in Moscow on January 28. America is understood to have told India that it might be able to participate later on, depending on whether it agreed to exchange ambassadors with Israel.

India believes that its long-standing position over the Palestinian question, a traditional pillar of foreign policy, entitles it to a role in the talks. Delhi was one of the first capitals to give diplomatic recognition to the PLO.

Delhi has put off a decision on opening an embassy in Tel Aviv until the present Middle East talks are over. It insists that the possibility of upgrading diplomatic ties in no way alters its stand that Israel must withdraw from the territories occupied since 1967. "Arafat will be reassured that India still supports him," an observer said. "But he will go away disappointed if he tries to get a long-term pledge that ties with Israel will not be upgraded. They will be; the timing and the circumstances simply have to be decided."

Rangoon steps up border forces as Muslims flee

FROM ALISTAIR LAWSON-TANCRER IN COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BURMA has deployed more than 75,000 troops along its border with Bangladesh and intensified its persecution of Muslims, causing thousands more to flee across the frontier.

Bangladeshi defence sources said that Rangoon's military rulers had put more than 30,000 extra soldiers into positions along the 170-mile border in the past few days, increasing the dangers of a frontier confrontation. In Burma, militant Muslim guerrilla groups are preparing to fight the military government. The rebels, armed with rocket launchers, assault rifles and machineguns, are recruiting from the refugees streaming into Bangladesh to escape persecution in the Islamic state of Arakan.

The immigrants, based in makeshift camps with little food or medicine, claim they are victims of a state-sponsored campaign of repression. An estimated 40,000 Rohingya refugees have fled in the past year to arrive penniless in one of the world's poorest countries.

"Bangladesh may soon ask for international aid for the refugees," an official in Chittagong said. He said more than 50 of them, mostly children, had died of exposure and others were suffering from cold, hunger and disease.

Muhammad Yunus, secretary of the refugees' relief committee, said many more would soon be arriving in Bangladesh because of a drive by the Burmese army to stifle Muslim support for Aung San Suu Kyi, the detained opposition leader. "In Arakan state, the Burmese

military has relocated all the Muslims, seizing their land without any compensation," he said. "We have been forced to work as porters for the army, and given no pay."

"While wives have been raped, husbands were taken to the hills and asked to clear mines planted by anti-government guerrilla groups. Some of us have been forced to act as human shields at army security outposts to deter rebel attacks."

"All our mosques have been demolished and Muslim schools closed down. Students from Arakan are frequently beaten by the soldiers. Our people are regularly tortured and im-

prisoned without trial — many have been detained since the 1950s — while restriction of movement laws prevent them from escaping the persecution."

The groups fall into two main factions: the fundamentalist Rohingya Solidarity Organisation, and the far less powerful, moderate Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front. Both support Daw Suu Kyi and say they have been forced to take up arms against the Burmese army because of persistent persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Arakan.

Dr Yunus, who leads the solidarity organisation, said

that his force consisted of more than 5,000 troops, plus an additional 1,000 soldiers fighting in Burma. "Our objective is to achieve self-determination for the people of Arakan, which can only be achieved if Daw Suu Kyi is released from house arrest."

"We now intend to take our struggle inside Burma and have already succeeded in ambushing the enemy and capturing machineguns and rifles. We have also smuggled some of our weapons into the war area from the Cambodian border. Because of our actions there is now every possibility of Burma invading Bangladesh — the recent Myanmar [Burmese] attack on a border security outpost is part of an overall strategy to occupy part of Bangladesh."

Because of its staunch Islamic stand, the organisation enjoys financial support from countries including Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. It is claimed that some recruits are being trained by Afghan mujahedin in Khost province. The smaller Islamic front operates inside Burma and is commanded by Nural Islam, aged 43. It consists of more than 100 men armed with antiquated British weapons.

Officials in Dhaka have strenuously denied claims from Rangoon that Bangladesh provides tacit support for the rebels. Mahmood Ali, the foreign minister, said that there was no question of Bangladesh providing a refuge for insurgents. "We have never provided any sanctuary for the rebels," he said. "If they do operate in our territory, it is because it is very difficult to stop guerrilla groups from functioning in thick jungle in remote border areas."



Scandal fears: Kakuei Tanaka, left, arrested over Lockheed, and Kiichi Miyazawa



Miyazawa vows to clean up politics

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

WITH tales of political vice and immorality recounted daily in the newspapers here, Japan's corruption-prone political world has started to preach its favourite homilies about ethics and funding.

Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister, vowed in Seoul on Friday to make Japanese politics "less expensive and political funding more open to public scrutiny, to prevent the recurrence of political bribery". In Nagasaki, Tokyo's equivalent of Westminster, politicians have been heard muttering about the need for self-inspection and hoping that they will not be singled out by Tokyo's public prosecutor.

The zeal for talking about political reform comes a week after Fumio Abe was plucked from the senior ranks of the ruling Liberal Democratic party and arrested on charges of accepting bribes from Kyowa, a now bankrupt steel

company. Mr Abe's arrest brings the total of big corruption cases involving MPs to 15 since the second world war and another may be brewing.

To the Japanese who have heard it all before, Mr Miyazawa's protestations over funding reforms ring hollow. They believe their politicians have neither the ability nor the inclination to wipe out the system of money politics.

Shigeto Hayasaka, who was private secretary to Kakuei Tanaka, the former prime minister arrested on bribery charges in the Lockheed scandal, remarked that Liberal Democrats spend 80 per cent of their time raising money with which to fight each other. "Politicians are so heavily occupied with raising and distributing money to promote their chances of re-election that they have no time to think about politics," said Kaoru Okano, a professor of politics.

Menem nurses Falklands goal

A "diplomatic umbrella" is failing to hide Argentina's obsession with sovereignty, Gabriella Gammari writes from Buenos Aires

Ten years after Argentina lost the conflict over the Falkland Islands, road signs welcoming visitors at the international airport still resurrect an old battle cry. The Malvinas are Argentine, claim large blue billboards lining the road all the way into the centre of Buenos Aires.

"They are to tell people those islands are ours and we will never give up our claim to them," said a taxi driver. President Menem has reiterated this message every time he has appeared in public over the last two weeks, in what appears to be an effort to override news of the forthcoming tenth anniversary of the Falklands war, coupled with Margaret Thatcher's proposed visit to the islands in June.

Señor Menem has renewed sovereignty claims several times and said he intends to press for negotiations on the issue even though, when his government resumed diplomatic relations with Britain last year, they agreed to shelve discussions on sovereignty "under a diplomatic umbrella" indefinitely.

Señor Menem says that by working on improved diplomatic relations with Britain he would win sovereignty eventually. At a public rally in the southern province of Tierra del Fuego last week, he said: "We

are not going to rest until the islands are part of our territory again."

Gregory Faulkner, the British consul in Buenos Aires, said his office had not received official confirmation on sovereignty claims and the issue remained under an "umbrella", clearly not open for discussion.

He said that when Tristan Garel-Jones, a foreign office minister of state, arrives in Buenos Aires on Friday for talks with Señor Guido di Tella, the foreign minister, they will not touch on the subject of sovereignty but keep to a "wide range of bilateral and international relations".

Señor Menem's renewed demands for sovereignty, despite the umbrella agreement, are a reminder of his tendency to reverse policies. During his presidential campaign he won votes on an anti-Britain ticket.

At a rally in February 1989 he labelled Britain as "pirates of the world" and claimed: "No matter how much time passes, or how much blood we have to shed, that territory will be ours again."

Pressure to topple Saddam grows

Washington: Saudi Arabia is reportedly pressing the Bush administration to start covertly supplying Iraqi rebel groups with arms and intelligence as part of an aggressive new drive to topple President Saddam Hussein. (Martin Fletcher writes)

The aim would be for the rebels to defeat or win over second-rate Iraqi forces garrisoned in the Kurdish north or Shia south and to draw Saddam's elite Republican Guard divisions away from his Baghdad stronghold to counter their insurgencies. Those divisions would then become the targets of allied air strikes, *The New York Times* claimed.

American officials believe Saddam's power-base is contracting. A group of administration agencies has been considering what else it can do to undermine Saddam.

Algerian attack

Algiers: Gunmen killed a soldier and wounded two paramilitary policemen in the first reported attacks on security forces since army-backed Algerian leaders last weekend cancelled elections as Islamic fundamentalists headed for victory. (Reuters)

Libyan plea

London: Libya has called for a United Nations conference on ways to combat terrorism. The proposal, made in a letter to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, came a day before today's debate on the Lockerbie bombing, which Libya is boycotting.

Family affair

Tokyo: Kim Jong Il, aged 49, son of President Kim Il Sung of North Korea, vowed to carry on as his father's loyal successor in what observers here said was his first comment on the matter. The younger Kim is supreme army commander. (AFP)

Outback rescue

Sydney: Four more Chinese boat people were found in the outback of northwestern Australia, taking to 47 the number rescued since they abandoned their boat in Montague Sound, Western Australia. Nine are still missing. (Reuters)

Blood recycled

Delhi: Indian scientists are to start human trials of an emergency transfusion made from out-of-date, donated blood that can be given to patients of any blood group in such cases as accidents when there are no supplies immediately available. (AFP)

Writer killed

Hong Kong: Chan Kang Nan, an outspoken Hong Kong newspaper columnist known for criticising China and Taiwanese independence, has been found battered to death. The police said that they had not ruled out a political motive. (Reuters)

Cuba support

Bogotá: Felipe González, the Spanish prime minister, who is visiting Colombia, and President Gaviria of Colombia have called for the prompt reintegration of Cuba into the Latin American community to help in restoring stability in the Caribbean region. (AP)

Killer caught

New York: Frank Vandever, aged 40, a transverse stock broker who escaped from jail two weeks ago after being convicted of murdering a client, was recaptured. His victim had discovered that Vandever had embezzled the man's investment account.

Scargill visit

Johannesburg: Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, arriving for an international miners' conference on energy and mining issues, said he would use the visit to show solidarity and share experience with South African unions. (AFP)

Limbs hope

Minneapolis: John Thompson, a teenager from Hurdsfield, North Dakota, whose arms were reattached after being severed in a farming accident, continued to recover but surgeons said that he would require further work on the limbs. (AP)

Hard urned

Peking: A funeral home worker in Shanghai has been sentenced to two years' hard labour for cleaning out urns of cremated remains and reselling them to bereaved families. He had made £70 before being stopped. (AFP)

THE TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 20 1992

Holocaust birthplace becomes museum with a mission

THE lovely Berlin lakeside villa of Wannsee opened as a museum with a mission at the weekend. Here, 50 years ago today, six million murders were planned. Now, according to its director, Gerhard Schoenberger, the museum seeks to explain how "a civilised country could perpetrate the sheer barbarism of the Holocaust".

On January 20, 1942, in the course of a drunken working breakfast attended by 15 men from Hitler's ministries, the "final solution" became the official policy of the Third Reich. Persecution and mass execution of Jews were well established Nazi tactics by then, but the "Wannsee conference" was the moment when the administrative train of genocide was set in motion. Adolf Eichmann wanted a conference to bring together the various ministries needed to co-ordinate the arrest, transport and extermination of Jews. Years later, during his trial, he was to describe how the cogwheel flowed freely during the hour and a half spent drawing up the 15-page protocol.

Fifty years on, Wannsee has opened its doors to explain one of history's worst crimes, initiated at a drunken breakfast, Ian Murray writes from Berlin

Herr Schoenberger, son of a Protestant minister whose family suffered imprisonment and exile for resisting Hitler, was 14 when the war ended. A historian, he has dedicated his life to trying to understand why his countrymen set about committing genocide with such determined efficiency. The museum, financed by the city of Berlin, is the result of his search. The villa doubles as a library and education centre to teach young people the events and consequences of the Nazi period.

Herr Schoenberger thinks that only now are Germans ready to face these issues. "In the 1960s the Cold War ended the attempts to deal with the past," he said. "The Americans needed us in Nato even though 85 per cent of Germans did not want a new army. The Americans had to win us over to their system."

They could not expect us to say 'yes' when they still had Germans in jail, so they released some terrible war criminals.

"There were even those who said: 'Did we not fight bolshevism much earlier? Now, at last, the Americans have understood that they should have fought with Hitler against Stalin instead of the other way round.'"

Herr Schoenberger believes shame and fear still make it difficult for many Germans to admit what happened. "A whole generation was afraid to touch this delicate subject," he said.

The fact that most present-day Germans were born after the war means "people now have not the slightest reason to feel guilty. For them it is history. They have a new approach to this period and they want to know why it happened. To them it is so peculiar because they never experienced a dictatorship."



Eichmann and an extract from the only remaining copy of the infamous Wannsee protocol in the museum. The last two lines contain a reference to "preparations for the solution of the European Jewish question".

H-Gruppenführer Hofmann

H-Gruppenführer Müller

H-Obersturmbannführer Eichmann

H-Oberführer Dr. Schöngarth
Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD in Generalgouvernement

Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamt

Reichssicherheitshauptamt

Sicherheitspolizei und SD

II. Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD, H-Obergruppenführer Heydrich, teilte eingangs seine Bestellung zum Beauftragten für die Vorbereitung der Endlösung der europäischen Judenfrage durch den Reichsmarschall mit und wies dar-

K210401

"this always made it possible to spread the blame".

Mounted under glass in the room overlooking the lake where the 15 drunken men had breakfast 50 years ago, the only remaining copy of the original 30 copies of the Wannsee protocol is the museum's main exhibit. The document explains how Europe's 11 million Jews, including an estimated 330,000 from Britain, were to be marched east to do construction work "whereby doubtless a large proportion will fall by the way". Survivors would need to be dealt with "accordingly" because, by their very survival, "they represent a natural selection... a germ cell of a new Jewish development".

Unpleasant words such as "death" or "extermination" appear nowhere in the neatly typed pages. They would have seemed out of place in the gracious dining-room. Photographs of 12 of the men who approved the document stare coldly down from the wall (no pictures of the other three have been traced) but the room is otherwise empty of their sinister presence.

Hurd raises defence worries in Kiev

Ukraine hints at going it alone

BY ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, arrived in Kiev on the second leg of his three-nation tour of the former Soviet Union yesterday as Ukraine hinted that his republic could withdraw from the Commonwealth of Independent States.

In a meeting between Mr

Hurd and Ukraine's foreign and defence ministers, the foreign secretary raised other military concerns that are arising in relations between the commonwealth states, including the Ukrainian military oath of allegiance and the timing of the withdrawal of tactical nuclear missiles from the republic.

His concern was mirrored in Bonn where Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, said in an interview that republics of the former Soviet Union would continue to receive Western economic aid only if they converted the West that they were honouring international arms-control agreements. In another interview, Pierre Joxe, the French defence minister, offered French technical assistance to

the republics to help them to rid themselves of their stocks of nuclear weapons.

Some assurances were given in Kazakhstan, where Mr Hurd, arrived on Saturday. The foreign secretary received confirmation from President Nazarbayev that Kazakhstan would honour all treaties signed by the Soviet Union and eventually it would sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

At a banquet, Mr Nazarbayev presented the foreign secretary with the head of a sheep killed in his honour and offered advice as to which part of the head should be given to whom. The Kazakhstan leader recommended that the right ear should be given to Mr Hurd's wife and the left to the British ambassador in Moscow. The nose, Mr Hurd remarked, should be sent to Scotland Yard.

Mr Hurd discussed commercial and economic co-operation and possible British aid in the development of a financial system for the republic.

President Kravchuk's hint yesterday of withdrawal from the commonwealth was made as Ukrainian and British television cameras were waiting for him to shake hands with Mr Hurd. Referring to Friday's meeting of senior Soviet officers in Moscow and the election of a military council, Mr Kravchuk said: "If we object to something then we must, without fail, raise the question of living in the commonwealth."

Changing times: Clocks in much of the Russian Federation went forward by an hour yesterday (Mary Dejevsky writes). The shift caused havoc with rail and air timetables and brought scenes of confusion to Kiev airport. Ukraine is remaining on Central European time.

The change in Moscow time came after weeks of pressure from schools and factories. The Russian decision to move the clocks forward annulled an order issued by President Gorbachev last year when most of western Russia switched to Central European time.



Spring option: Torrente, the Paris fashion house that lists Edith Cresson, the French prime minister, as a customer, declared the 1992 fashion season open yesterday with a glimpse of the colourful, sexy styles coming into vogue (Liz Smith writes). His orange and green flowered organza two-piece with asymmetric bubble skirt, above, from the spring haute couture collection to be shown in Paris next Sunday, is a clue to how most top designers are resolving the headline debate: High or low, it is up to the customer, as top couturiers Hardy Amies, Victor Edelstein, Franka, Hartnell and Anouska Hempel will prove in London fashion shows this week.

Cresson decides to sue Le Pen

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

COMBATIVE as ever, Edith Cresson, the French prime minister, has decided to take legal action against Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the French far right, for defaming the Socialist government. Mme Cresson's complaint, deposited at the weekend, comes after the National Front leader described her cabinet as "a bunch of robbers, racketeers and gangsters leading the nation to disaster".

Although always free with his abuse of political opponents, Mme Cresson decided this assault on the "constitutional body" demanded an appropriately tough response. With ministers' support, she intends to pursue him for a formal apology and damages, if only symbolic.

Undaunted, M Le Pen repeated the offending words at a press conference in Nice yesterday, adding for good measure that the Socialists were "rogues". His rule in politics, he said, was "to call a cat a cat" and that would always be the case where the sort of scandals that were now emerging were concerned. "Those people are going to make themselves look ridiculous once again," he said.

M Le Pen has been convicted of defamation twice in the past five years. This latest outburst was transparently timed to exploit the scandals about campaign financing that could prove highly damaging for the Socialists. With the front looking for significant gains in regional elections in March, he needs no encouragement to sling mud where he hopes it will stick.

But opinion polls show a deep discontent with all political parties and their leaders — Mme Cresson and M Le Pen included. Few people, it seems, now bother about the goings on in the National Assembly, while viewing figures for politics on television — including President Mitterrand's increasingly tedious interventions — have been falling like a stone.

The outcome of the clash between Mme Cresson and M Le Pen is unlikely to have much direct electoral significance.

Killings strain truce in Croatia

Zagreb: The deaths of three Yugoslav soldiers in fighting and an intensifying war of words over the main Serb enclave in Croatia have placed the latest truce under renewed strain (Anne McElvoy writes).

The soldiers were shot dead in an ambush near the Adriatic town of Zadar. Croatian sources reported sporadic fighting around Nova Gradiska, but the two sides had used a new telephone link to agree to end the shooting.

An advance party of UN military observers was allowed to enter the main Krajina enclave, but its leaders repeated their refusal to disarm local militias in accordance with the UN plan to bring 10,000 peacekeepers into crisis areas.

Milan Babic, the region's self-styled prime minister, said: "The people of Krajina cannot accept being blamed for the conflict and being disarmed while those who provoked the conflict, Croatia and its armed forces, remain armed."

The UN has stipulated that the Croatian national guard and the federal army should withdraw from the Krajina area but keep their arms, while local irregular forces would give up their weapons.

Church leader had Stasi links

Bonn: Manfred Stolpe, former head of the Evangelical church in East Germany and the only Social Democrat prime minister of a Land in the east, has admitted he had close contacts with the Stasi for nearly 30 years (Ian Murray writes).

But, he insisted in Bremen, his only purpose had been to help those for whom he was responsible as a church leader. Herr Stolpe had never harmed anyone or been an informer, although he might have had a codename in the secret police files.

Bernard Lewis, page 12

Zhelev leads in Bulgaria polls

Sofia: President Zhelev took a clear lead yesterday in the run-off vote of Bulgaria's first direct presidential elections, initial projections showed.

Mr Zhelev, a philosopher, aged 56, the candidate of the anti-communist Union of Democratic Forces, held 54.4 per cent of the vote based on initial returns, the Bulgarian association for fair election said. His rival, Velko Valkanov, who is an independent but is backed by the Socialists, the renamed Communist party, had 45.6 per cent. Mr Valkanov, aged 64, is a lawyer. (AP)

Russia agrees troop pullout

Vilnius: President Yeltsin has agreed with President Landsbergis of Lithuania to begin withdrawing former Soviet troops from the republic (Anatol Lieven writes).

The Lithuanian side has modified its demand for immediate withdrawal and has said that special arrangements might be made for strategic anti-aircraft units. The Russians have agreed as a priority to remove the garrison from Vilnius, the capital. The timetable for withdrawal is to be settled by a joint commission in Moscow this week.

Net closes on ousted leader

FROM REUTER IN KUTAI

GEORGIA'S ruling military council said yesterday it was closing in on Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the ousted president. The council claimed control of a key town and said it was opening talks for the capitulation of another one.

The council's commander in the mountain town of Kutaisi, operational headquarters for the campaign against Mr Gamsakhurdia, described the position in western Georgia as stable. In Kutaisi, a few armed soldiers patrolled the streets but there were no signs of fighting.

"We are proposing peaceful talks," Johnny Karcheva, the commander, said. "We want all these regions to come under the government. But if those [peaceful] efforts produce no results, we will not



Yeltsin: appearing in public yesterday

Yeltsin back on the ball

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND DAVID MILLER

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday turned up to present the prizes at a volleyball tournament in Moscow — a sport in which he excelled in his younger days. Mr Yeltsin's appearance seemed to quash speculation that he had experienced heart trouble on Friday and been ordered to rest.

It was unclear yesterday whether the Russian leader had suffered a recurrence of his earlier heart trouble or whether his illness might be more diplomatic in character — to mask, for instance, continued failure by participants in the winter Olympics to agree under which flag they should appear.

Mr Yeltsin cancelled an appointment with Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee, at the weekend on the ground of ill health. He then offered to reschedule the meeting for yesterday. Señor Samaranch said he was unable to accept because of other engagements.

The brief scare over the president's health raises questions over Mr Yeltsin's facility to bow out at awkward moments, and the future of Russia. No one has anything approaching Mr Yeltsin's stature, and there is no one who would seem capable of keeping the vast population of Russia and the predominantly Russian officer corps relatively docile during a period of massive economic and social upheaval.

Russians savour benefit of price reforms

Two weeks and two days into "price liberalisation", the shelves of Moscow's food shops are beginning to fill. On what used to be Kalinin Prospekt — and has been recently renamed New Arbat — the main food store is buzzing. Suddenly as much buying seems to be happening inside the shop as by the back door.

Three sorts of sausage are on sale, including the rubbery pink "boiled" kind in kilogram sticks, smoked salami and pale link sausages. There are eggs in plenty, all with the advised pink stamp on them, in addition to butter, cottage cheese and sundry varieties of smoked and tinned fish. Red caviar is sold by the 100 grams to those with the foresight to bring a container. On other counters are Russian sweets and chocolates, soft pink meringues in boxes and a sought-after sweetmeat in

Shoppers face a new dilemma: not whether to eat or starve, but whether to satisfy their wants or needs, Mary Dejevsky writes from Moscow

long beige strips called pastila. No one is asking for sugar ration coupons. There are frozen chickens at 38 roubles a kilo — down seven roubles from the previous week — and some fresh meat. In another case are semi-prepared foods — goulash and "beef with garnish" — in foil packaging.

Dry white wine (imported from Bulgaria) is on open sale, at 52 roubles a bottle, a sight unseen for years. Soviet (now Russian) champagne at 90 roubles — down 30 roubles from two weeks ago; vodka; and brandy... again, no one asks for coupons, only the till receipt.

You need time, of course, to queue several times over, but above all you need mon-

ey. As a foreigner, who has just changed pounds for 160 roubles each (quite legally), you feel like a millionaire. For Russians, the new prices and the incipient reappearance of some goods present a dilemma. For the first time in their lives, they have to choose: not, for the most part, between eating and starving — the queues tell their own story — but between what they want and what they really need.

Across the road is the capital's leading book shop. Now, much trade is conducted, oriental-style, from rags stretched out in front of the shop. There are glossy art books, Agatha Christie thrillers and James Bond books in Russian

translation, and books on sex, pirated from Western editions. Prices bear no relation to the cover price, but trade is brisk in all these categories.

Inside, the shop looks little different at first sight from a year ago. Close up, however, the shelves have been transformed. There is a modest section of computer manuals. The economics section is full of books by Russian authors with titles like *The End of Utopia*, *The Failed Experiment* and other lamentations for 70 misspent years. In pride of place are translations of Hayek and other prophets of the ultra-free free market.

The philosophy and atheism department is another revelation. On one side is a jostling crowd through which you can just glimpse *Tales from the Bible*, *Introduction to Yoga*, *The Teaching of Maharishi*, Andrei Sakharov's autobiography

and other volumes banned not so long ago. On the other side, ignored, are stacks of pamphlets and yards of shelves about Marx and Lenin.

Outside the Kiev railway station is another of the wonders of post-perestroika Moscow. The square is an encampment of kiosks and stalls, selling everything you could imagine and much you could not. The kiosks started trading in earnest only in the past few months. Initially, they all stocked a strange mixture of everything — but only luxuries. Like sections of eastern bazaars, they are starting to specialise, some in clothes and shoes, some in jewellery and cosmetics, some in cassettes and novelties and others in food and drink.

Three years ago, the first co-operative ventures were openly threatened with fire bombs. The flimsy kiosks have remained inviolate.

Pressure to topple Saddam grows

THEATRE

Master of eavesdropping and empathy

The art of the dramatic monologue is flourishing.

Matt Wolf talks to one of its foremost exponents.

Alan Bennett, as his *Talking Heads* opens in London

When Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads* opens in London tomorrow, it will restore to the West End a theatrical form, the monologue, which seems to flourish for reasons that go beyond the fact that monologues are cheap to produce. It has not been long, after all, since Willy Russell's award-winning *Shirley Valentine* left the Duke of York's, having cast a succession of actresses in the richly defined role of the Liverpudlian housewife who finds love, as well as self-esteem, while on holiday in Greece.

Later this week the Royal Court revives Brian Friel's 1979 play, *Faith Healer*, which is a succession of monologues for three characters. And at the end of this month, David Hirsch's Broadway play, *La Bête*, comes to London with a full cast of characters, yet nonetheless starts with a 20-minute monologue for its central figure.

Bennett originally wrote his *Talking Heads* for television — the title pays wry homage to the potential boredom of watching one person's face occupy the small screen — only to watch it expand to fill a stage and an auditorium, not just a viewer's living-room. Its West End run prolongs a virtual festival of this playwright's work, which hit its stride prior to Christmas with Bennett's two shows at the National Theatre. No sooner had his successful adaptation of *The Wind in the Willows* launched its second sell-out season than it was joined by his first original play in three years, *The Madness of George III*. Add to that Bennett's recent television appearance as a British trader during the first world war in the BBC series *Ashenden*, and this most modest and understated of men suddenly seems to be everywhere.

"I'm a bit embarrassed about it all," he says, with customary self-effacement, prior to travelling from his north London home to the

Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford, where *Talking Heads* was having its try-out engagement. "It just happens all to have come at once."

The present venture stems from a one-off charity performance at the Playhouse Theatre last year, in which Ian McKellen read Bennett's monologue, followed by a benefit at Chichester in September, which found Patricia Routledge reprising her two monologues for the stage. The current evening is framed by Routledge's two solo turns with the playwright himself in between: "A sandwich with the ham in the middle," laughs Bennett.

His self-deprecation notwithstanding, the performance serves to re-acquaint audiences with several of Bennett's most notable characters, including Routledge's obsessive Irene Ruddock — "If the hearse drivers must smoke, then facilities should be provided," she says sternly, describing a trip to a crematorium — and Bennett's own stint as the timid mother's boy, Graham, in the quietly devastating *A Chip in the Sugar*.

The form is very much the same," Bennett says of his theatrical *Talking Heads*, comparing them to the six-part series recorded for the BBC in 1987. "I haven't done anything to the text except to try and make it easier to do them all in one setting."

Bennett has described his monologues as "stripped-down versions of short stories," and he views his present assignment as that of "a story-teller, rather than an actor in a play. It's quite hard to define exactly what you're doing. You're telling a story, relating events, and yet at the same time you're acting them out."

"You're building a bridge out over the void, and if you stop speaking, there are no other actors to help you out. That's the practical difference: if you forget your words, it's a disaster. I quite regular-

ly dry, but I somehow manage to keep going and take the audience with me."

Indeed, the Guildford run was marked by several memory-related spasms which Bennett ascribes to his familiar fear "of appearing on stage, which I continue to do rather against my better judgement. Apart from forgetting the words, the problem is you can't at any point relax as you would in an ordinary play."

Still, one imagines the actor on some levels savouring nightly the psychological acumen of the author. "Acting these pieces, you can tell if there are any spare words, and you find yourself surprised by the laughs, as well. It's all very intense, which I think it needs to be."

How does the experience compare to film work such as *Ashenden*? Again, the "live" aspect of the stage is paramount. "That's different, because on TV or film, if you forget the words, then that's all right. I don't mean to harp on this issue, but it is the actor's nightmare, and once you are relieved of that, then your attitude changes completely."

Julie Walters, Maggie Smith, Thora Hird and Stephanie Cole were the other television participants in *Talking Heads*, and Bennett thinks they might be tempted to re-do their work for the stage if the present engagement goes well. Routledge, for her part, admits to some early hesitation about making the shift, even though she describes Bennett's two monologues, written specifically for her, as "the greatest compliment one could be paid."

The first, *A Woman Of No Importance*, written in 1981, marked Bennett's inaugural attempt at the monologue form, and Routledge remembers numerous efforts to shift the tele-play to the theatre. "Alan had wanted me to do mine on stage for some time," she recalls. "But I was always diffident about transferring a concentrated, boxed-in experience to a stage and sharing



Quietly devastating: Alan Bennett as mother's boy Graham, in *A Chip in the Sugar*

it with a live audience who would respond with such things as laughter. The thing is, you still have to keep yourself contained within the character; you cannot behave as if you are a stand-up comic. It's not a matter of going out to sell it to them as much as it is of getting people to eavesdrop on you."

That quality of eavesdropping is central to Bennett's achievement, which humanises sad, ordinary lives and finds a quality of grace as well

as poignancy in the everyday. "When I first wrote *Woman Of No Importance*, I just wanted to hear this woman talking, and that's how it happened," says Bennett, down-playing the extraordinary act of empathy which the monologues represent.

Playing other roles in his own work, such as Anthony Blunt on stage in the 1988 *A Question of Attribution*, Bennett confesses to a "slight reluctance because I always feel I'm me; even with a wig

on for Blunt, I couldn't lose myself."

Did that put him off tackling Graham Whitaker in *A Chip in the Sugar*? Once again, modesty prevails. "Not really," he decides. "I've always wanted to do what *Talking Heads* I could, because I felt I could play them as well as anyone else."

● *Talking Heads* previews from tomorrow at the Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, London SW1 (071-867 1045) and opens on January 27.

RECORDS: OPERA

Rich rewards of rediscovery

The current revival of *Xerxes* at the Coliseum may remind one that there are three dozen other Handel operas put there, none of which has been produced by a major British company since the mercenary year of 1985. Happily that will soon change, when a Handel cycle begins in the new theatre at Glyndebourne. Meanwhile the riches of this repertory are being sumptuously laid out on record, not least by René Jacobs, already responsible for several of the best recordings of baroque opera, including a *Handel Flavio*. To this he adds a *Giulio Cesare* that is typically jocular and lively, and that is so, again typically, because with him the voices come first.

Of course, this is one of Handel's most splendid orchestral scores, and utterly splendid it sounds here, with magnificent royal horns, a gorgeously winding solo violin, a bewitching ensemble played by the muses in the masque-vision *Cleopatra* creates to ensnare Caesar, and all through the naturalness, grace and agility that period instruments can pull out, besides some amazing turns of speed in what is generally a fleet performance. But everything is as if bent to and around the singing. It is from the voices that the arias seem to take their speed, their spark and their drive, and the recitatives have a caressing accompaniment, with warm gamba, often prominent lute tones and sensuously spread chords. In its voice-centredness and its improvisatory lightness, the performance has an expressive immediacy one might have thought more Monteverdi's than Handel's domain.

None of this could be happening without voices that can live up to the demands of Handel's music, and of his characters. These do. And with everyone a star, it is hard to know where to begin the praise. Marianne Rasmussen is spectacularly exciting as the juvenile hero Sesto ("L'ange offensé", in Act II, is a real show-stopper), but then Bernarda Fink is full of grandeur and plangency as the grieving widow Cornelia. Meanwhile Jennifer Larmore as Caesar and Barbara Schick as *Cleopatra* make a

Handel: Giulio Cesare. Soloists, Concerto K&N/Jacobs. Harmonia Mundi HMC 901385-7 (3 CDs) Handel: Rodelinda. Soloists, La Stagione/Schneider. Harmonia Mundi/BMG RD 77192 (3 CDs)

wonderful pair of resplendent egotists, with Larmore here sounding sometimes strikingly masculine, over a range of colour from trumpet to cor anglais, and Schick casting silver over *Cleopatra's* snake's path. Their final duet is one of the recording's glories.

There are, though, so many others. Furio Zanni is beautifully sympathetic as Achilles, the only low line among the leads, and a main doing the wrong deeds for the right reason. Dominique Visse uses his extraordinary singing to snap *Cleopatra's* snooty, shifty cynicism into life. It even seems right that Ptolemy's voice, as contributed by the counter-tenor Derek Lee Ragin, should be prone to break into baritone, like a mask slipping. Altogether this is an outstanding achievement, anyone still doubting the pleasures and power of Handel as an opera composer should start here.

The *Rodelinda* from another German ensemble, La Stagione of Frankfurt, is not quite on the same level of astonishment, partly because the work is hot, though it certainly has its marvels. The plot is of the more usual kind, with just six principals caught up in the opera's never-ending and if devious, disguise and unbridled lust for sex and power, whereas *Giulio Cesare* has a greater range of character, and of musical-dramatic realism.

Barbara Schick produces more bright, easy tone as the heroine, though she rarely quite reaches the top gear of her *Cleopatra*. The tenor Christoph Prégardien also sounds tender, making his usual lovely fresh sound, but imprecise in the devilish runs. However, the counter-tenor David Cordier gives a fine performance as the suffering hero, excellently sustaining his tone through his several slow arias, and for this seductive pathos alone the recording justifies itself.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Tribute to director

FAMILY and friends of the director Tony Richardson commemorated his recent death and the 25th anniversary of his film, *The Charge of the Light Brigade*, yesterday with a special showing of the film at the Canon in London. Neil Hardesty, the producer, and Richardson's former wife, Vanessa Redgrave, spoke briefly before the screening, which was attended by many members of the cast, the Woodfall production team — and the great era of British cinema.

Favoured first

GORDON Burn's novel *Alma Cogan* is emerging as the punter favourite to win the Whitbread Book of the Year this week. Bookmakers William Hill are giving odds of 5 to 4 for the book — winner in the Whitbread first novel category — to take the £20,500 first prize when the judging is announced tomorrow. John Richardson's biography, *A Life of Picasso*, is

second favourite at 9 to 4, while third favourite is Jane Garmar's *The Queen of the Tambourine*, winner in the novel category, with odds of 4 to 1. Diana Henty's children's novel, *Harvey Angell*, is at 6 to 1 and Michael Longley's poetry volume, *Gone Flies*, is at 7 to 1.

Last chance

THIS is the week at Stratford when the Royal Shakespeare Company (0789 295623) throws its farewell parties and forgetful punters scramble for last-minute tickets. *Romeo, Caesar and Twelfth Night* all come to an end, but the pick of the main-theatre offerings is on Saturday, with Robert Stephens a sly, sober Falstaff in *Henry IV Parts One and Two*. At the Swan, Shakespeare's rarely performed *Two Gentlemen*, Ford's *Tis Pity She's a Whore* and Adrian Noble's staging of Sophocles's *Theban* Trilogy are well worth catching.

ARTS REVIEWS

Television, theatre and music page 16

EXHIBITIONS

When snipers venture into the firing line

George Bernard Shaw, never backward in coming forward, made no bones about using his apprenticeship as a drama critic to clobber the kind of fashionable drama he did not approve of and then suggest a more acceptable substitute, which, as a dramatist, he was more than ready to deliver. Likewise, Truffaut, Godard, and other

young turks of French cinema in the Fifties first discredited the "cinéma de qualité" in the pages of *Cahiers du cinéma*, then went ahead to demonstrate that, given a chance, they could knock Carné and his fellows into a cocked hat.

The tradition of artists turning critic and critics turning artist is not unknown in the field of painting and sculpture — it goes back at least to the 16th century with Vasari and his *Lives of contemporary artists* — but it seldom expresses itself quite so combatively. It has often been remarked that when visual artists take up the pen they tend to prove quite unfairly articulate in words. Things do not seem to work so smoothly the other way round, so it is quite surprising to discover how many people involved in the arts, as critics, curators, dealers and such, are also, for

John Russell Taylor reviews two shows of work made by professional art critics



Fruit Tree at Cartoceto Marche by William Packer talents in public. Admittedly, of the three national art critics responsible for the Critic's Landscapes at Cadogan Contemporary, two — William Packer of *The Financial Times* and Giles

Auty of *The Spectator* — were well known as painters before they took up criticism, though William Feaver of *The Observer* has only just been persuaded to haul his painting sideline out of the closet.

The critics in Artists in the Arts at The Gallery at John Jones — Sarah Kent and Timothy Hyman — have also been recognised before as occasional artists. Kent, for instance, has appeared rather unexpectedly as a photographer of the male nude, though in this show she proffers photography-based abstractions.

People who paint in glass houses should not, perhaps, throw stones. But people who throw stones for a living must be credited at least with courage if they expose their own efforts to retaliation from the walking wounded.

None of the three critics-landscapists is particularly aggressive in print, but they all make it perfectly clear how little regard they have for the excesses of Conceptualism, and Auty and Packer in particular hold up in their writing an alternative of solid academic training and tradition-based craftsmanship in time-honoured media.

In their own painting Auty and Packer practice exactly what they preach, working with quiet, well-disciplined talent. If the talent were a little less disciplined they probably would not have time and energy to write criticism at all. Feaver is more of an unknown quantity, but since he has written a book about the pitmen painters of Ashington, it seems reasonable that in his own art he favours a similar kind of sober observation.

The art is certainly consistent with the criticism. That will not necessarily save it from the darts of embittered competitors. For my part, except for cartography, I have never evinced any noticeable skill as a draughtsman, so I cannot put myself on the line in this way, and have always had to field indignant enquiries as to how I dare criticise people for not doing well enough those things which I cannot do at all.

● Critic's Landscapes. Cadogan Contemporary, 108, Draycott Avenue, SW3 (071-581 5451) until February 1
● Artists in the Art. The Gallery at John Jones, Unit 4, Finsbury Park Trading Estate, Morris Place, N4 (071-281 2380) until February 6

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Fantasy and a woman Friday

Are the neo-Victorians stifling women's sexuality? Charles Bremner meets a champion of the female erotic daydream

It is morning in the flower-decked tearoom of one of those expensive little Park Avenue hotels. The young waitress, dressed in dainty pre-war style, is tinkering nervously with the china when Nancy Friday, strong-voiced and assertive, moves from masturbation to the master of female lust. "Sometimes it's just nice to be held down and done to, at least in fantasy, and sometimes in reality for some people."

The waitress is already backing away when Ms Friday continues: "But nowadays women are just as likely to say in the next breath, 'And sometimes I like to imagine overpowering him, pinning him down.' At this, the waitress flees to serve an elderly couple, a safe distance away."

Chattering loudly about the more lurid landscapes of the female psyche is a normal morning's work for Ms Friday, a chronicler of the subject since 1973 when she published *My Secret Garden*, the first of three best-selling on women's and men's fantasies. Tall, blonde, and looking a decade younger than her 53 years, Ms Friday is on the road once again with a new message: 20 years since women hesitantly confided their dreams of sexual submission to her, young American females have thrown guilt to the winds and are revelling in an aggressive erotic outlook that reflects their new power in society.

Her new book, *Women On Top*, whose paperback edition reaches Britain in March, is a collection of sexual daydreams mainly from the twentysomething age group. It contains little to comfort the bruised egos of American men. In chapters with headings such as "Inextinguishable Women", Ms Friday presents excerpts from some 12,000 letters and interviews with women who responded to her request for their private desires.

Shrinking violets, these women are not, at least in their imaginations. Housewives, lawyers, businesswomen, students, and secretaries — they write almost uniformly in the steamy language of graphic erotica.

"Vast appetites are revealed, hungers that rise far above anything a woman could handle in reality... Women today feel they have a right to everything that until recently they could not even admit to thinking about," Ms Friday says. They do it with regimens, with masses of other women, with husbands' best friends, with a shopful of electrical appliances, and in one unintentionally hilarious epic, with a bushful gorilla. The initiative is always theirs, and sometimes they exercise it with a glee that might weaken the knees of even the Marquis de Sade.

"I am the slave-mistress," says Wendy, a 25-year-old executive assistant who wants "to make them hurt so bad that they pray for death." For gun-wielding Linda, aged 26, the idea is to lock up a man in a cupboard for days, letting him out just to satisfy her sexual desires. Less gothic is Cassie, a corporate executive, who is aroused by the idea of forcefully subduing her business rival — and making him but tender love to him."

This anger and aggression, says Ms Friday in her copious commentary, is all part of the new American female. "Take that" they

say, using their erotic muscle to seduce or subdue anyone or anything that stands in the way of orgasm.

As her many critics point out, this is hardly a scientific sample and Ms Friday is a self-appointed expert with no psychology training, but through her celebrity she does act as a clearing house for anonymous women who want to go public with their thoughts.

"I was just bowled over daily by how much women's sexual fantasies had changed," she says. "I was working on my novel about a year-and-a-half ago and women were stopping me on the street, almost literally saying, 'when are you going to do it, write another book.'"

"I thought people should hear these women's voices because they said something terribly important — mostly that our erotic fantasies do change as our real lives change."

A decade ago, all this would have sounded pretty humdrum. After all, female sexuality had gone public with the women's movement and there was surely little left to be said

after the deluge of sex manuals, *Cosmo* articles (the magazine Ms Friday worked for in the late 1960s) and the stream of novels that followed Erica Jong's *Fear of Flying*.

But Ms Friday's new outpouring comes at a time of extreme confusion in matters sexual in America. On the one hand, the culture is "wallpapered with sex", as Ms Friday puts it, with near naked fashions and bare bodies being used to sell every-

thing from ice-cream to computers. On the other side, the culture is in the grip of a backlash, a return to puritanism in sexual matters, which holds that "nice girls don't" and casts men in the role of predators.

New Victorianism, as it is being called, is preached by both extremes of the political spectrum, temporarily united in an unholy alliance. From one extreme come the "politically correct" thinkers who dominate the academic world and the women's movement, people such as Kathleen McKinnon, the activist lawyer, Patricia Ireland, the new head of the National Organisation of Women, and Andrea Dworkin, the writer. (These women, Ms Friday says scornfully, "will only be happy when women can impregnate women and men can lactate.") From the other extreme are the traditional conservatives, Republicans such as Pat Buchanan and women commentators such as Suzanne Fields, who "preach motherhood and monogamy and believe that sexual liberation was a disaster which merely enabled men to inflict suffering on women."

In this climate, as the furor over the cases of Clarence Thomas and William Kennedy Smith showed, the mere discussion of female sexual fantasy has become a political minefield. Ms Friday belongs firmly in another school of feminists, the ones who see sexuality as a source of female power and a liberating force. Her sisters in this movement include Madonna, the neo-feminist Camille Paglia and most of the writers in popular women's magazines.

Women, Ms Friday says, are threatened with repression; the loss of their hard-won right to wield their sexual power and a return to the dark ages where they will retain their eco-

nomic power yet be deprived of their sexuality. "We really are acting today like a bunch of Victorians in a whore house," she says.

There was, for example, something very Victorian in the prurient way the country sat glued to the Thomas hearings, expressing both distaste and fascination for Anita Hill's talk of the dimensions of the judge's sexual organs. Friday believes the role of the "PC" in leading the backlash: "They have a great deal of influence, which is why you have so many angry young women and so much emphasis on this business of date rape, which sets up every man as an incipient attacker just waiting for the right moment to pounce," she says.

"They want to return women to the old times. They want to tell women what is politically correct to think. That's like telling people what's correct to dream. They're setting up a bloody police state. It's so recent that women feel it okay to imagine things and now they want to limit women's lives."

Ms Friday makes much of the paradox that the politically correct movement is playing into the hands of the patriarchal masters it reviles. "Some part of the male mind is saying, 'Well at least these strident, debelling feminists are putting us in a powerful position. That's not a bad



Fighting talk: women, Nancy Friday says, are threatened with repression and a return to the "dark ages"

position to be in after we've been wimps for the past 20 years. Let's at least buy it and see what it feels like."

Needless to say, Ms Friday is being bashed by the women journalists and thinkers whose ideas she deplores. Margaret Carlson, in *Time* magazine, for example, dismissed *Women On Top* as "ridiculous, repetitive and boring... having the effect of an affidavit rather than an aphrodisiac."

There has been much sniping over the "psychobabble" she uses to explain women's yearnings, drawing mainly on the power of mothers over their daughters, a theme Ms Friday wrote about in her best-seller: *My Mother Myself*. Some critics have accused her of fabricating the graphic fantasies she recounts. She switches into an angry defence, ascribing the criticism to jealousy and a lingering refusal among experts to accept that women fantasise at all.

"It's sheer envy," she says of the academic critics. "I wouldn't want a PhD if they gave it to me because it would limit the way I like to write. I want to talk to people in a voice that makes people recognise themselves. So many people write and say, 'Oh my God, until I read your book I

thought I was some weirdo, a freak of nature.'"

Ms Friday, a southerner from the Carolinas who has had no children, sees herself as "the complete feminist, because I think women are the powerful ones. We are the ones who bear the children and raise them. Most of men's ideas and feelings about their sexuality come from the women who raised them." There is nothing remotely unfeminist about her, she says.

She is now working on an update of her work on male fantasies, a field which she said has been as much neglected as those of women. Men have reason to be confused, she concedes, because women seem to want to be seducers and also to savour the old pleasures of passivity in the hands of an expert male. "You want to feel you're totally being taken care of. Part of that swept away feeling is not having to say, 'Hey, George, a little more to the left please.'"

Men should realise that the demanding new women in her book are voicing only fantasies, not wishes. She does, however, urge women not to divulge their dreams to their mates. "Your partner may be left with the knowledge that when the two of you are making love, you might be fantasising about three of his best friends."

Even disregarding the fact that "She led me on, guv" is the paedophile excuse most familiar to examining policemen, there is an untanny similarity here. It excuses the man, implicates the child, and — like the facade of "art" — makes it acceptable for chaps in middle age to dream about sex with schoolgirls.

So does the fact — gleefully overplayed in the BBC film — that Bernadette was raped. Having also lost her one adult friend, a kind teacher, she needs a wise old fellow to "heal" her. How convenient. Never mind that the last thing a lonely rape victim needs is another dose of sexual predation, however disguised.

But why carp? Where's the harm in another fictional old goat? Even if — as here — the romance is accorded a happy

ending? Real-life men run off with bimboes: why pick on art?

I suppose because in real life we know what we are seeing something sad, something probably doomed, certainly selfish, and rarely good for the girl or for her future. More equal, love affairs. We are seeing girls who need mentors being palmed off with neurotic satyrs, and learning to believe that their main value lies in their transiently youthful bodies.

Even if they offer sex, they need not be taken up on that desperate, humble offer, not at 18, anyway. But add a bit of arty soft-focus and it looks fine. To men, at least.

So to hell with art. Myself, I go along with George Orwell's line on Salvador Dali's paintings of rotting women. "The worst crimes, he says robustly, 'are not always the punishable ones. By encouraging necrophilic reveries one probably does quite as much harm as by, say, picking pockets at the races... Dali is a good draughtsman, and a disgusting human being.'"

Well, that is a bit harsh for nice Mr Bragg but you get the drift. No, a mild corrective snarl does no harm this week: no harm at all. I feel a lot better.

LIBBY PURVES
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An unmoving picture show

Fear of damage means that many masterpieces will never be moved

Will the era of blockbuster exhibitions, bringing together outstanding examples of a master's work, soon come to an end? This prospect has been drawn nearer by the National Gallery's unwillingness to lend its finest Mantegna to the Royal Academy's retrospective survey of his work.

The painting, *The Agony in the Garden*, is more than 500 years old, and particularly fragile because it is painted on wood rather than canvas. Nevertheless, it is only a short distance across central London from the gallery to the Royal Academy and one might think it could come to no harm.

Conservators, who exert an increasingly powerful influence, argue that distance is not the issue. After all, the exhibition devoted to Géricault at the Grand Palais in Paris last autumn could not borrow his most outstanding masterpiece, *The Raft of the Medusa*, from the Louvre. The enormous painting began to deteriorate soon after Géricault's death in 1824, and the Louvre was simply not prepared to risk damaging it with the slightest vibration.

Even a painting completed as recently as Annigoni's portrait of the Queen is forbidden to travel from the Fishmongers' Company in the City to an exhibition, at the Victoria & Albert museum, celebrating the 40th anniversary of her reign.

In a larger context, the Fishmongers' refusal takes on a more alarming significance: if this painting is deemed unfit for lending, what about all the other 20th century pictures which will be needed as loans in the future?

The rise of conservators is largely responsible for this development. As they discover more about how paintings were made, so their reluctance to disturb the objects' equilibrium grows. They would never, nowadays, even consider loans which museums once permitted.

When the Royal Academy mounted a survey of Italian art in 1930, the Uffizi in Florence was prepared to send over its most famous single painting, Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus*. Such a loan would be inconceivable today. The Uffizi, which owns an important triptych by Mantegna as well as the exquisite little *Madonna of the Stonecutters* has not lent either of them to the academy.

The Ca'd'Orto in Venice turned down the academy's request for a late, harrowing picture of St Sebastian riddled with arrows. And, most

disappointing, the Brera gallery in Milan refused to lend one of Mantegna's most widely admired works: the *Dead Christ*, lying on a slab.

I hope that my forebodings prove too pessimistic. Temporary exhibitions are indispensable to understanding any prominent artist whose works would otherwise be too widely dispersed to assess them properly. It is likely, however, that the age of the truly comprehensive retrospective is almost over. Last year, the largest exhibition ever devoted to the post-impressionist Georges Seurat was staged in Paris. None of his titanic canvasses was able to make the trip. The *Grande Jatte* remained in Chicago, the *Poseurs* in Phil-



A still life: the *Grande Jatte* remains in Chicago

adelphia and the *Baignade* in London. So the show's organisers were reduced to displaying full-size black and white photographs of the missing masterpieces.

On March 26, the National Gallery will open an important exhibition of Rembrandt and his workshop. Organised in collaboration with Berlin's Gemäldegalerie and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, it is an attempt to bring together the best array of Rembrandt's work. But only 51 paintings by the master are included. His most celebrated images, *The Nightwatch* and *The Jewish Bride* are not being sent over here from The Netherlands. They will never travel again; and by the end of this century, an array of other great paintings will also find themselves forbidden to move.

RICHARD CORK



"There is no law that requires any member of the Shadow Cabinet to know anything about their subject, but I have been steeped in education since childhood."

Jack Straw and his sister are members of a teaching dynasty. The TES talks to them, and their mother, this Friday.

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Dancing in the footsteps of Lolita

Is Melvyn Bragg following the old, exploitive path of Nabokov?

PURE coincidence, of course, that the televised version of Melvyn Bragg's novel *A Time To Dance* should be running just as the literary are ago over the new biography of Vladimir Nabokov. Either event might have provoked no more than a sigh. Together, they rate a start.

Nabokov's "masterpiece" is, of course, *Lolita*. This "luminous work of genius", as some waffler called it on the radio, is better known than most modern classics since it is about sex. The sex is between a middle-aged academic, Humbert Hum-

bert, and a girl who is, initially, 12. I read it at 15 and found it disgusting years later, since so many critics praised it. I tried again. It proved clever, subtle, and still disgusting. Not even Humbert's assurances that his Lolo was a knowing mix can disguise the fact that the book is a celebration of a grown man's wholly predatory relationship with a child.

Humbert comes to a bad end, yet the authorial tone (compounded by his technical skill) has beyond doubt given comfort to generations of paedophiles. I may never be invited on to the literary pages again, but here goes: *Lolita* is a book I refuse to have in the house.

And so to Melvyn Bragg's far lesser offence in *A Time To Dance*. As Sunday viewers know, it deals with the "love" between a working-class schoolgirl and a retired bank manager with a taste for fell-walking. The book is a curious amalgam of Hamstead hand-wringing about self-discovery, and stuff about G-strings and "firm tanned flesh".

The law is appeased because Bernadette is 18, and the creepiest, most

humane touch occurs when the banker types out a schedule of seduction on his word processor while his sick wife lies upstairs. *Lolita* is echoed in the ingenious assurance that the child made the first move. "She seduced me," Humbert wrote and, "You taught me, you the child, I the adult," says Bragg's hero.

So does the fact — gleefully overplayed in the BBC film — that Bernadette was raped. Having also lost her one adult friend, a kind teacher, she needs a wise old fellow to "heal" her. How convenient. Never mind that the last thing a lonely rape victim needs is another dose of sexual predation, however disguised.

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Questionable intentions

Party manifestos are bland but can bite the bearer, says Peter Riddell

Election manifestos are unloved, derided and little read. But, for better or worse, they set much of the political agenda. They are taken seriously by the politicians who write them and, as important, by the civil servants who help to implement them. The decisions being taken now on the party manifestos will determine large parts of the Queen's Speeches up to the mid-1990s.

Superficially, manifestos seem full of bland generalisations and empty pieties. Even the titles are meaningless. Which parties were responsible at the last general election, for example, for *The Next Moves Forward, Britain Will Win* (previously used in October 1974), and *Britain United* (The Tories, Labour and the then Alliance respectively). Only the Conservative party in 1945 with *Mr Churchill's Declaration of Policy to the Electors* offered precision. Yet manifestos now contain a multitude of promises, even though party leaders seek to avoid saying anything that can be seized upon by opponents.

Their real impact is made after elections. As David Butler argues in his *British General Elections since 1945*: "The civil service prepares briefs on how the policies are to be carried out; the House of Commons accepts that it must not frustrate the enactment of a specific manifesto pledge endorsed by a clear election result; and party activists cite the manifesto in attempts to prevent their pragmatic leaders from backsliding."

Take three examples from Labour's move into office in 1964. The eager Tony Benn handed Sir Ronald Gorman, director-general of the Post Office, a copy of Labour's manifesto. "He picked it up with a look of infinite disgust and carried it out of the office with two fingers," Benn recorded in his diaries. "Later I shall examine him on it to see if he noticed the many points in it that relate to the work of the GPO."

New ministers were less sure what to do in other departments. Richard Crossman, coming fresh to housing after the election, discovered that, even though Labour had been committed for five years to repealing the Tories' rent laws, there was only one slim sheet of notes from Michael Stewart (the shadow spokesman) on how to do it. "Everything else has to be thought up on the spot," Richard wrote. Parliamentary secretary at the Ministry of Labour, was presented with a civil service analysis of the Labour manifesto, together with costings running into hundreds of millions of pounds a year and the advice that he consult his colleagues about whether they really wanted to go ahead with the whole programme. Douglas Houghton, co-ordinator of the government's social policies, replied: "If I were you, my boy, I'd forget about the manifesto and do as much as you can on roughly the same lines."

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

But it is not always possible to forget manifesto promises. Margaret Thatcher was able to force through the poll tax in place of domestic rates, in spite of the strong doubts of Nigel Lawson and John Major, because she argued that it had been a specific manifesto pledge.

Mrs Thatcher relied on the idea of the mandate, the alleged endorsement for a party's full programme if it wins an election. Taken literally this is nonsense. Very few elections are fought on a single matter and voters cannot pick and choose what items in a manifesto to back or to oppose. They have to make a broader choice between general programmes and teams of ministers. As Sir Ivor Jennings argued: "The doctrine of the mandate is part of the political cant. It is a stick used by the Opposition to beat the government."

It was first widely used by the Tories to oppose Gladstone's Irish home rule legislation in 1886 and then in the 1909-11 constitutional crisis to justify votes by the House of Lords against proposals which the Liberals had not included in their previous manifesto.

The real question is of balance, not of doctrine. While, in theory, governments with secure Commons majorities are free to run the country and then be assessed on their overall performance at a general election, this can never be an absolute licence. Voters have a right to require at least a rough guide to future intentions from the parties.

This does not rule out new initiatives, though governments should not seek to introduce a big change that they have previously ruled out without seeking the approval of voters for it. That was Baldwin's view in calling the 1923 election on the question of protection. Of course, circumstances change and demand different responses — even if, in replacing the poll tax by the council tax, the Tories have taken this to bizarre extremes by repeating within the life of one parliament the legislative centrepiece of its first session.

The danger is that promises are hurriedly made, inadequately thought out, and are too specific to allow for changed circumstances. In this light, John Smith has been as precise as is reasonable about his tax plans; no party, certainly not the Tories before 1979, set out more details of post-election changes. But that is irrelevant electorally. Having successfully knocked Labour off balance over weaknesses in the party's spending plans and their tax implications, the Tories will be redoubling their punches this week. But then, in the battle of the manifestos, my sensible prudence about future plans is your devious evasion.

Matthew d'Ancona on a literary lifeline opening between Britain and the former Soviet states

Emma goes East

Censorship donated all its back issues and subscriptions for the future.

Around the country, stores taking part in the appeal reported that books were already being brought in by the boxful. They expect to be further inundated this week as readers of *The Times* take up the opportunity to reduce the piles of novels cluttering up the shelves of children's books kept only for sentimental reasons, and the extra copy of *The Farin Road* someone got for Christmas. (Full details page 6.)

What cultural nerve has Book Aid struck? The campaign certainly builds on strong historical foundations, a tradition of Anglo-Russian literary dialogue and exchange that can be traced from George Turberville's doggerel *Poems Describing Russia*, completed in 1568, via Pasternak's fascination with Shakespeare, to

Michael Frayn's more recent translations of Chekhov. Anglophilia so gripped Russian literary society during and after the reign of Catherine the Great that even today Russians boast they know the works of Dickens better than the English.

But if Book Aid is part of a distinguished cultural tradition, it is also a charity for its times. The cold war may be over, but the demand around the world for uncorrupted, up-to-date texts is as great as for immediate material needs. In the countries of Eastern Europe, the Jan Hus educational foundation and the Central and East European Publishing Project continue to provide texts and support publications in fields where demand is strong but resources are few. Soon, Operation Arslit will do the same for Romania. In Sri Lanka, the Civil Rights Movement has established

a project to translate classic writings on the value of dissent into Sinhala and Tamil. Once a symbol of embattled human rights, the book is becoming an emblem of opportunity, empowerment and enterprise.

Book Aid's objective, therefore, is not to provide the Russian chattering classes with coffee-table books, but to contribute to the intellectual infrastructure of the new Commonwealth of Independent States. The need is for technical and medical manuals as much as for poetry, biographies and novels, so in a curious sense this campaign is fiercely practical rather than bookish.

But why send books to the old Soviet Union? Many other countries, for example in the Third World, need aid of this kind. The answer is that in few other parts of the world has writing been so central to national culture and yet

so twisted by political caprice. This is the terrible paradox of 20th-century Russian intellectual life: that a towering literary nation also spawned one of the most effective censorship machines in history.

In the Soviet Union, literacy meant the encouragement of uniformity rather than pluralism. The control of literature, as one censor put it, was "a service which carried out state politics in print", and one that taught people not to doubt, thereby to forget the verbal traffic of debate and dissent.

Now, a society long silenced by ruthless propaganda and what Pasternak called "the tyranny of the glittering phrase" is learning to talk and write freely again. So desperate is the need for books and so meagre the supply of hard currency that when the Siberian librarian was presented with a selection of Book Aid titles in Moscow, she burst into tears. This week, Book Aid offers the British reading public the chance to put its literary surplus to excellent use and bring Jane Austen, along with more mundane but essential modern works, to the Muscovites.

The annals of Eastern evil are throwing up fresh victims, finds Bernard Levin

I was Karl Marx who said: "A spectre is haunting Europe — the spectre of communism"; the hairy old fraud would have a nasty shock if he could come back and see a Europe, and not only Europe, so thoroughly scourged by the exorcists that the only remaining marxist willing to answer to the name is Professor Terence ("call me Terry") Eagleton, who has just been appointed a Professor of English (at Oxford, a hundred years behind the times as usual).

But there is another ghastly figure hovering over Europe, and however much holy water is sprinkled on it, I fear that it will be many years before it is laid to rest. Before the Berlin Wall came down and Germany was one again (and free again), control of the East German population was in the hands of the secret police, acronymically called the Stasi. The Stasi was the East German state responsible only to the politburo. Its members could and did throw anyone they accused out of a job or into prison, with no possible redress from a law that existed only to reinforce such decrees.

Some idea of the ubiquitous nature of the Stasi's activities may be gained by the knowledge of the quantities of dossiers it held; these, now in the hands of a democratic Germany, amounted to fifty miles of shelving. (On a whim, I tried to work out how many files of suspects the Stasi held; if the average was half an inch thick — many, presumably, held only a few pages, which would make room for the more heavily persecuted victims — it was 6,336,000, almost exactly one-third of the population of East Germany, men, women, children and babies.)

Evidently it is not only in Shakespeare that increase of appetite had grown by what it fed on. But the opening of the Stasi files has



loosed spectres more terrible than any haunted house could hold.

First, obviously, the documents will certainly point to those who committed crimes, including murder (for instance those who shot innocents trying to get across the border), perjury, false imprisonment, and many more. Prosecutions have started in the worse cases (yes, we are hearing the famous words "I was only obeying orders" and it will be a long time before all those dreadful accounts are read). But there is a twilight zone between deep-seated wickedness and innocence, wherein lives the informer.

The informer has always been a figure to shun, and it is not difficult to shun him, because he prefers the shadow to the light. A good case can be made for him; many a crime would go unpunished if it were not for the informer with his phone call or his note. There is another, lower, level of the informer's Hades; the criminal who informs in a bargain with the

authorities for immunity from prosecution. And below that level there is the one which induces the most powerful shudder: the agent provocateur. (It was A.P. Herbert, in one of his *Misleading Cases*, who pointed out that there was no English word for it, so abhorrent is the very notion in Britain.)

Totalitarianism spawned the kind of informer who fetched up in the Stasi files as doing his totalitarian duty. But what did the informer think he was doing?

There are a good many answers to that question, and we might as well go through the lot, starting with the least culpable and the most agonised. This is the man or woman who is told by the powers of evil to inform, on pain of punishment — all employment barred, a child taken away for ever (that was Frau Honecker's contribution) — she thought of the idea and put it into practice, even a ration card withheld. Many brave men and women in East Germany faced that terrible bargain and

rejected it, well knowing what the consequences would be: how would you answer? The rule must be: we may not condemn anyone for cowardice, unless we are certain that we would have been brave in their place.

Very well; some refused, some accepted. Let us move on to the next position. Inform, and you get promotion in your job; you will be allowed to buy a car; you can travel abroad; a bigger flat awaits you. In other words, we have changed from threats to bribes. Think about it: we live wretchedly; we shall never get another chance to live better, the Stasi would have got the information somewhere else, anyway. Temptation is a terrible thing, succumbing to it is easy; even easier is self-deception.

How harsh should we be? Remember, you are not in peaceful, free Britain; but in a hell of brutality and lies. Is the crime so bad? *Sub specie aeternitatis*, can we be damned for it? Here the rule, expounded above,

may bring out the reasoner's axe: before it falls, let me step into the witness-box for a moment. When I condemned Kurt Waldheim I took great care to discover whether, if he had resisted evil, he would have fallen under attack, and only when I was sure that the answer was no did I denounce him. Now, how do you rate the example of the people above, and yourselves in their place?

The mark is getting thicker. For the Stasi files, to which any former East German may now, under supervision, have access, contain much more than evidence of criminal acts, and in a sense it is the lesser activities that induce the greatest horror. For the efficient Stasi, like efficient secret police forces the world over, whenever they opened a file on a suspected dissident, added to the papers the name of the wife or woman who informed on the victim.

W here is Pandora now, to shut her box, and lock it? For now it is not the winds that are escaping, but hideous monsters. Families are discovering that when Bruder Hans was arrested for speaking ill of Brezhnev, it was Uncle Lothar who tipped off the Stasi, and when Schwester Elsa was sacked precipitously from her job, and thereafter followed wherever she went, it was because Hermann, the spurned author, had told the Stasi that she had a collection of banned books and pamphlets. Who now will look with the same eyes on that neighbour who informed on his son, and who can forgive the colleague who worked for years as a spy-in-office for the Stasi?

Already, families have broken apart under the revelations; there have been suicides; many who are entitled to inspect their files have refused, for fear of what — or whom — they might find there. So, beside this tragic story, the categories of informer are hardly worth discussing. Perhaps opening the files was not such a good idea after all; have you ever noticed that "revolution" is only two letters away from "revolution"? We shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free? Would St John have been so confident if he had seen the Stasi papers in time, with "Iscairiot" written on the file?



...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Under the headline "Rock 'n' roller finds God" *The Times* last week reported the very late conversion of Jack Good.

Remember Jack Good, "the man who scandalised post-war middle-class Britain by introducing rock 'n' roll to the television screen"? His photograph was in the paper along with the report. "Almost overnight, Good steered a generation of children away from the innocent lyrics of *The Laughing Policeman* and *Davy Crockett* (King of the Wild Frontier), subjecting them to young men with graying hips who sang of young love, tight jeans and fast cars." It seems that Good "is to become a hermit in a Carmelite monastery in west Texas."

I'm sorry, but it won't do. How dare he lead us all astray and then jump ship? And Good is only the latest in a famous series of sinners who have turned traitors to Mammon. Such people lead the charge against the virtuous life, and then, as the rest of us gallop headlong into the valley of sin, change their minds, step quietly aside, and watch mankind thunder past to perdition.

If I'm going to perdition, I insist that Mr Good comes too. I remember (just) his programme *Six-Five Special*. I remember Teddy Boys on TV. I remember the young men with graying hips. I wore the tight jeans. I yearned for the fast cars. These things changed me. Along with some 20 million other young Britons I heard the argument

against piety and I was convinced. I saw the permissive society and I was impressed.

And for me there is no return. There were serious arguments. Mr Good's career to perjury. Whether or not he understood them himself, I did. I read Bertrand Russell and was persuaded. I heard Malcolm Muggeridge and was recruited...

Aha. Muggeridge. Another lemming who applied the emergency brakes at cliffs' edge. Wouldn't a public apology followed by a lifetime's silence have been in order? Silence, however, is what you never get from these people. Making a living — and a good one — from being famously naughty, they develop a liking for publicity. The taste for naughtiness fades, but the taste for publicity remains. For those, such as Muggeridge, who have only reached the interval when they decide that this was not a bedroom farce after all but a morality play, a deft switch is made from being famously naughty to famously nice. This they justify (St Augustine: "*Da mihi castitatem et continentiam, sed noli modo*") — "Give me chastity and continence, but not yet", by arguing that the experience of vice has equipped them to go public on the advantages of virtue.

Germaine Greer even writes books about it. Having led a generation of women, by means of *The Female Eunuch*, to rebel against monogamy, fidelity and conventional motherhood,

Greer has a new career going on lecture tours explaining why they all went wrong.

This is rather like marketing wallpaper, then leading a charge in fashion away from wallpaper and marketing wallpaper-stripper. You do more than desert one captain and join another: you are the captain, both times. Having raised one army, you leave it under new management and go to war with it, captaining the opposing side. Such men and women spend half their careers constructing the argument which it becomes the second half of their life's work, and income, to destroy. I trust that Dr Spock, the man who convinced millions of parents that children need freedom, took no fee for propagating his later theory that children need discipline.

For those who convert in the final scene of their personal pageant, death rescues them from the horror of losing the public's attention. The curtain comes down before the audience has time to grow bored and leave. My great grandfather, who was a drinker, socialist soap-box orator and sometime pantomime dame, scented the end, became a Roman Catholic, and promptly died.

I promise not to follow his lead. My hero remains Bertrand Russell. Asked in old age what he would say, if his lifelong atheism proved mistaken, upon meeting God, Russell replied: "But, Lord, you should have given me more proof."

Come back, Leon Brittan?

INFORMAL soundings have taken place between London and Brussels about a return to British politics by Sir Leon Brittan. There has been considerable speculation that John Major, if re-elected, will create a minister for European affairs of cabinet rank, and there are few men better qualified.

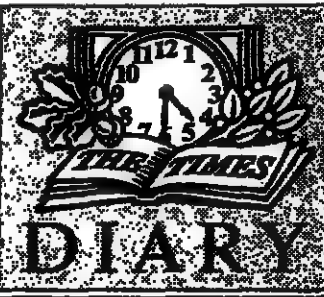
Brittan, whose term as one of Britain's two EC commissioners ends this year, has kept his political hand in, working hard on the Tory rubber-chicken circuit. Friends say that ever since the Westland affair he has believed he would one day return to British politics, a promise Mrs Thatcher made him at the time.

One Brussels observer says: "He would only be interested if it was a big job. It would have to be a European portfolio with cabinet status which would carry virtually the same weight as the foreign secretary." Brittan would probably do the job from a seat in the Lords.

Although Brittan has disagreed with the government on such matters as a common European defence policy, he has skillfully avoided charges of going native. "He'd never get away with that if he didn't spend so many weekends travelling up and down Britain," Brittan still has a house in his old constituency of Richmond, North Yorkshire, and is a great Dales walker.

He is only 52, which gives him lots of time to come back. Of course he would love to be president of the commission, but he accepts his politics may not fit the bill in Brussels.

In British circles a return would be widely popular. Peter Luff, director of the European Movement, says: "He would immensely strengthen the present govern-



ment and would give the cabinet a great insight into Europe." Lord Bethell, the Tory MEP, says: "He got a real deal from Mrs Thatcher. With his fine intellect he would be a grand person to have back in the cabinet."

Robert Maxwell's former empire is offering ripe pickings for Labour's political rivals. First The European fell into Tory hands, now the Daily Mirror has turned to a leading Liberal Democrat for rescue. Sir Peter Parker sees no conflict between his political allegiance and his position, confirmed yesterday, as chairman of the management consortium seeking to buy MGN. The editor Richard Scott, until now leader of the consortium, has been characteristically blunt about the Mirror's continuing commitment to Labour. But Parker, who stood as a Labour candidate in the 1950s, and enjoyed a close undergraduate relationship with Shirley Williams, is similarly forthright. "I used to be Labour, now I'm Liberal Democrat. There has to be someone that regularly takes the radical position." Could that mean the Mirror fearlessly campaigning for the fudge of a hung Parliament? Parker seems to be saying not. "I think the Daily Mirror has a justified and respected point of view."

Environmental fallout

MANDARINS have joined battle over a successor to Sir Terence Heiser as permanent secretary at the Department of the Environment. Heiser, who in his career has been rewarded with both a KCB and a GCB (one for inventing the poll tax, say the critics, the other for disavowing it), retires this year. That no new name has emerged signals fierce infighting.

The strongest internal candidates, Peter Owen, at present on secondment from the DoE to the cabinet office, and deputy-secretary Derek Osborn, are vying for the position. But Michael Heseltine is said to want to break with tradition by looking outside the department. Strongly tipped in Whitehall is Richard Wilson, a deputy secretary at the Treasury.

Hayden Phillips, also at the Treasury, has emerged as a late candidate. Heseltine could also be tempted by some who have served him closely in the past. That could put into the frame Richard Mottram, his former private secretary at the defence ministry, while an outside candidate might be David Edmonds, once a Heseltine private secretary who now manages property for the National Westminster Bank.

Artistic licence

ATTEMPTING to prove that a book can be judged by its cover, the artist Lucian Freud has produced a delightful original drawing of his daughter for the dust-jacket of her first novel.

Hideous Kinky, Esther Freud's first work of fiction, to be published at the end of this month, carries, to paraphrase James Joyce, a portrait of the novelist as a small girl. But the drawing is entirely new, says the author, and done as a family favour. "My

father drew it recently, specially for my novel, from an old family picture," she says.

The illustration relates closely to the book in that Freud writes of her own childhood in Morocco in the 1960s through the voice of a

four-year-old. There are no plans for the drawing to appear on the wall of a gallery, or even the novelist's own drawing room. "My father has kept the picture so I won't be framing it. Its artistic life exists solely as a cover."



Only days after British Steel announced the closure of the Ravenscroft plant it sent details to Lanarkshire schools of its sponsorship of 16 steel-hulled yachts in the forthcoming round-the-world race. "Educational and supporting materials and activities will be available for both primary and secondary schools to help staff and students join in with the spirit of the British Steel challenge," the promotional leaflet says. Not surprisingly few of the children's parents, facing redundancy, feel much like joining in the spirit. The graffiti "jobs not yachts" has already been spotted on one playground wall.

Many have criticised a new history textbook explaining first about showing events — the pattern of the European Community. Social initiative in Africa and black nationalism.



VOTING FOR PEACE?

Israel's shaky government has lost its last prop. Tebiya and Molelet, the two small right-wing parties in Yitzhak Shamir's coalition, have finally pulled out in protest at Israel's apparent readiness to discuss autonomy for the Palestinians. Having lost his majority, Mr Shamir will now have to go to the country. Inevitably the Middle East peace conference will come to a temporary halt. Mr Shamir will not risk any concession that gives ammunition to his right-wing critics, nor engage in substantive negotiation without a mandate from the electorate.

This hiatus is exactly what critics of Israel's negotiating tactics had feared. They forecast that Mr Shamir would spin talks out, use an election campaign to freeze all negotiations on substance and then play for time, hoping that the American election would increase pressure on the Bush administration to underwrite Israel's request for a \$10 billion loan.

Such critics are wrong. The collapse of the coalition could just lead, albeit after a delay, to real progress in the peace talks. These will dominate the campaign. Mr Shamir is already claiming to be the man who can deliver peace. And despite his visceral distrust of the Palestinians, his lifelong commitment to a Greater Israel and his obstinate encouragement of new settlements, he knows that a large number of Israeli voters, probably the majority, desperately want peace. He is preparing himself for the role of de Gaulle, the man whose credibility cannot be questioned by the right, the man strong enough to make concessions that are seen at home as statesmanlike. Such calculations must have been behind his decision to attend the opening Madrid conference.

He also knows that electoral arithmetic is on his side. Since the last general election in 1988, and especially since the formation of his present coalition 18 months ago, the prime minister's Likud party has pulled ahead of its chief rival, the Labour party. More and more, Shimon Peres is looking a loser, a man tarnished by discredited socialism and wily-waspy in defence of Israel's interests. Mr Shamir can probably

count on the bulk of the 250,000 Soviet immigrants who have not voted before. They have no love for anything smacking of socialism. They also tend to be secular in outlook and unlikely to be attracted by the religious parties, the chief rivals to Mr Shamir on the right.

There is a danger that the election may not alter the overall political balance. Proportional representation encourages numerous splinter groups, some with no more than one member in the Knesset. Israeli society is sharply polarised and deeply held convictions, especially on the path to peace, tend to cancel each other out. The result is overall stalemate and a domination of government decision by extremists. Mr Shamir may again find himself without an overall majority, and again dependent on small groups. His hope is to win supporters of the religious parties by campaigning for a tough approach to the Arabs but within a context of continued negotiation.

The Arab negotiations seem fully alive to the manoeuvring of Israeli politicians. The Palestinians in particular have shown sense and forbearance in their decision to continue talking, despite the threatened deportation of 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories. If Hanan Ashrawi and her colleagues are able to hold to their moderate line, they will await a Shamir election victory before pushing further forward. The same patience cannot be ascribed to the Syrians, who are boycotting the next round of talks in Moscow. Without them, negotiations on water rights, arms control and refugees — practical issues at the heart of the conflict — will be meaningless.

The danger in the Middle East is that delay slows momentum and stifles the best of intentions. Frustration builds up, and random incidents are used by extremists to undermine progress. The onward march of fundamentalism in Algeria, Egypt and Jordan shows that moderation has enemies everywhere. Mr Shamir must use the election to free himself of the far right's stranglehold. He must then play his peace cards swiftly and decisively at the negotiating table.

OVER-UNIONISED

The people of Scotland are citizens of a nation with a culture and identity as defined as that of any of the dozen new states flourishing in eastern Europe. They believe they know what is good for their country and are not enamoured of politicians from England telling them they are quite mistaken. Yet the Scottish secretary, Ian Lang, has made a practice of doing just that. Last weekend he proclaimed to a 2,500-strong audience in a debate organised by *The Scotsman* that devolution would leave Scotland over-taxed and over-governed, and would lead inexorably to independence. He of course never breathed the word self-determination.

How long can the Tories keep up their opposition to constitutional change in Scotland in the face of overwhelming support for greater self-government? Conservative scare-mongering over devolution has always been patronising. It is now reckless. Under an assembly with tax-raising powers, the Scots will only be "over-taxed" in the view of Mr Lang. They will be taxed as much as they choose to be. They may choose a level higher than that in the rest of the United Kingdom. They may choose the reverse. But choice they should in some degree be allowed.

One term of a high-taxing Labour regime could well lead to subsequent victory by tax-cutting Tories. Scotland does not forever have to be anti-Conservative. As recently as 1955, the Tories won more Scottish seats than Labour. In the 1980s, the Scots disliked two aspects of Toryism: the peculiarly English patriarchy of Margaret Thatcher herself and the condescending sate of her government. When the first was removed, the Conservatives' reward was an immediate five-point rise in Scottish polls.

The strategy remains, and with all other Scottish parties in favour of constitutional reform, its electoral impact is crippling. A Mori poll for the *Scottish Sun* yesterday found Labour at 47 per cent, almost double the 24 per cent for the Tories. That puts Labour ahead even of its 42 per cent vote in 1987, in which

it won 50 of the 72 Scottish seats. The Tories are down to nine seats, fewer than the Liberal Democrats. Even if the Tories win the election, they may have to staff the Scottish Office with English MPs. Such a "colonial" administration would surely shame the party into reconsidering devolution.

The Conservative party, ever more dominated by the South-East, is not acting in its own interest. An assembly in Edinburgh with extensive executive power would require an end to the over-representation of Scottish MPs at Westminster. Scotland would lose 13 seats if the average number of voters per constituency were brought into line with those south of the border, and should lose double that number if devolution is to have real meaning. The result would be a strongly Tory tilt at Westminster.

Mrs Thatcher persistently identified Unionism with Westminster-centrism. Virulent in her defence of Westminster against Brussels, she could see no virtue in subsidiarity to local councils or regional assemblies. For them she had the same contempt that her EC opponents have for national parliaments. John Major has not shown any divergence from this centrism.

Unionism need not be incompatible with devolution, as countless Tory "devolvers" in Belfast have protested. Mr Lang claims that a Scottish parliament would lead to Scottish independence. By what process? His intransigence, early reminiscent of earlier British colonial rulers, is a greater threat to the Union. By setting a false dichotomy — independence or nothing — he encourages more Scots to move into the radical camp. A System 3 poll for the *Glasgow Herald* last week found that, faced with Mr Lang's stark choice, 55 per cent would opt for independence. When offered devolution too, support for independence drops to 35 per cent.

The government's policy of centralism is anachronistic and prejudicial to the Union. Scotland's status within the United Kingdom must change.

HISTORY LESSONS

In the immortal phrase of 1066 and *All That*, the European Community is a Good Thing, at least according to a new multi-national textbook, *The History of Europe*, by 12 European Historians. This curious EC-subsidised volume was originally conceived by socialist MEPs as a common history for Europe's schools. Its aim is to counter-balance national opinions on, say, Waterloo or the Franco-Prussian War with "descriptions of events which occurred simultaneously in all member states, to stimulate an awareness of belonging to a single political entity". As one half of Europe tears up a false historicism, the other is being enticed into an equally fallacious grand theory.

Many history textbooks, including those subsidised by Sellar and Yeatman, have parroted a jingoistic view of history. Classroom history should promote understanding of modern institutions, customs and values by explaining their genesis. Having learned first about their own country, schoolchildren should study some genuinely European events — church history, the growth of trade, the pattern of alliances — rather than swallow a dubious concept of a pan-Europeanism (chief exponents, Charlemagne, Napoleon, Hitler).

Social and political change will always initiate historical revisionism. As South Africa moves towards multiculturalism, its textbook myths about the Great Trek or black migration prior to the Afrikaner settlement are being challenged. British prim-

ers, which once concentrated on the growth of empire, will naturally need to examine more intensely Britain's relations with continental Europe, east and west. These changes will arise from new knowledge and the enthusiasm of students and teachers: they should not be the subject of some Euro-syllabus pushed through the council of education ministers by qualified majority vote.

Of course short-sighted historical nationalism may blight Europe's understanding of itself. Too few seminal works are translated in any direction, leaving unexplored the depths of international misunderstanding. The French, who prefer their history in popular magazine form, are notorious for historical chauvinism. Simon Schama's ground-breaking *Citizens* remains unpublished in Paris because its clear-eyed view of the revolution is regarded as unacceptable. Yet it was a French historian, Elie Halévy, who published what is still the finest history of 19th-century Europe.

The *History of Europe's* self-interest. Euro-sponsors regard history as a form of social engineering. They wish to generate support for their particular view of Europe's future through classroom teaching. History should not carry such an official imprimatur — such is the danger of all centralised curricula — for it always thus tends to propaganda. British publishers and educationists are right to have given this dubious chronicle a wide berth.

Gulf war lessons on round-clock news

From Mr S. N. Payton

Sir, Janet Daley's advocacy of a permanent radio news channel ("Feeding a news junkie", January 14) adds weight to the view that the temporarily extended news service during the Gulf war was perhaps initiated to satisfy the self-indulgence of journalists, for whom immediacy of presentation is more important than content.

It was not only the "vested interests" who criticised the service for presenting "hours of relentless waffle" to fill the gaps between the news. Many listeners, too, considered that what was offered added little to what they could have obtained had the regular news schedules prevailed.

If so many non-professional "news junkies" exist, should the BBC's news professionals be allowed to hijack an existing network — and the stereophonic VHF frequencies at that — to broadcast the monophonic material which they describe as "news"?

The allocation of wavelengths during the Gulf war was totally perverse, rather than "sorted out... with remarkable efficiency", as Ms Daley claims. If there is a large, unsatisfied, non-stop news-hungry audience, a 24-hour news service should operate on a new and separate network.

Yours faithfully,
S. N. PAYTON,
Homestead Cottage,
28 Peachfield Road,
Milverton, Gloucestershire.
January 15.

From Mr Ian McIntyre

Sir, Janet Daley's plea for a 24-hour news service on radio struck me as lazily argued. She tells us that she is "an incurable news addict", which must be a painful affliction, but there is no evidence that it has yet reached epidemic proportions.

What her case seems to boil down to is that those who were responsible for "Scud FM" enjoyed doing it but then they would, wouldn't they? It is always a relief to slip out of one's corner to read not to have the time to check a quote or a statistic or a pronunciation.

"Vested interest", says Miss Daley, "the BBC favours those who guard their own spheres of influence". A better case could be made for saying that after many years of being the most powerful vested interest of all within the corporation, News in the domestic services is now established as a state within a state and as no longer subject to many of the standards of editorial quality

control on which the reputation of the BBC has traditionally rested.

The main argument against open-ended instant broadcasting (I leave aside the sedition that is a function of its repetitiveness) is that it undermines the authority of the BBC as a source of news.

Speculative gossip exchanged between journalists in a newspaper office undoubtedly makes a contribution to what eventually appears on the printed page. I imagine, however, that an editor who took it into his head to reproduce it verbatim might very soon find himself invited to breakfast with the proprietor in the Savoy.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MCINTYRE
(Controller BBC Radio 3, 1978-87),
Sylva House, Newlands Avenue,
Radlett, Hertfordshire.

From Mrs Sian Flynn

Sir, As a fellow "Scud FM" addict, I was delighted to read Janet Daley's cogent arguments for a rolling news service. It would be able to offer those of us for whom Radio 4 is a constant companion a far wider and deeper coverage.

In particular, there would be room for a greater emphasis on news from Europe, both as we see it and as reported in Europe. So far, despite the fact that 1992 is here, we seem to receive only the same old xenophobic reporting of Britain and its views, and no insight at all into how European issues are seen from the other side of the Channel and beyond. Even *Eurofile*, the honourable if infrequent exception on Radio 4, has not been broadcast since December 4.

Yours faithfully,
SIÂN FLYNN,
Kilbane Lodge, Valley End,
Chobham, Woking, Surrey.

From Mr James Bredin

Sir, Good journalism likes to think of itself as a first rough draft of history. A 24-hour radio news or current affairs service would be an attempt at giving us history as it happens.

That would be attempting too much. The writing of history needs time for reflection and judgment; it is not to be achieved through immediate reactions to hastily reported and possibly inaccurate facts.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BREDIN,
25 Stach House,
Cundy Street, SW1.

Labour and Nato

From the Minister of State for the Armed Forces

Sir, I beg to differ with Peter Riddell ("Overtaxing voters", January 17). He rightly suggests that there are serious questions about Labour's defence proposals, but qualifies that by adding that they are "minor" compared to the effect a Labour victory would have had on Nato in 1983 or 1987.

The effect of Labour's defence policy on Nato would be anything but minor. Labour's point-blank refusal in the nuclear debate on January 14 to support (in any shape or form) the retention of a British nuclear deterrent, the concept of nuclear deterrence or the need for a sub-strategic nuclear capability entirely undermines Nato's new

"strategic concept". This emphasises the need for an adequate mix of strategic and sub-strategic nuclear weapons. The UK currently makes a major contribution to both.

The strategic concept also advocates the retention of considerable conventional forces. Labour are committed to reducing defence expenditure by at least £6 billion. The reality of that kind of reduction is that we would simply not be able to participate in the Rapid Reaction Corps, let alone lead it. The considerable contribution we make to Nato by sea and air would also have to be severely curtailed. I find it difficult to conceive of ways in which Nato would be more severely disrupted.

Yours faithfully,
ARCHIE HAMILTON,
House of Commons,
January 17.

Spending assessments

From Mr Judy Mallerber

Sir, Mr Michael Portillo's assertion (report, January 17) that our analysis of the standard spending assessments (SSAs) is "ludicrous" cannot go unchallenged. He queries our concentration on the shire district councils: but it is precisely among this class of authorities that the statistics raise questions on how the SSAs are set.

The proposed national average increase in SSAs is 6.3 per cent, yet Liberal Democrat Labour-controlled districts are in line for increases of 4.87 per cent and 3.92 per cent respectively. Our research could find no reason to account for this and asked ministers to comment.

Mr Portillo cites the increases in some London boroughs to demonstrate even-handedness. For the record, in the 32 London authorities both Labour and Conservative administrations receive average SSA increases of 7.7 per cent. Liberal Democrat and no-overall-control authorities get 7.3 per cent. The closeness of the London figures makes an explanation of the differences even more important.

Yours sincerely,
JUDY MALLERBER (Director),
Local Government Information Unit,
1-5 Bath Street, EC1.

Heritage appointment

From the National Office of the Institution of Professional Managers and Specialists

Sir, It was a relief to all our members at English Heritage — some 75 per cent of its specialist staff — to read in your letters column (January 16) that Jocelyn Stevens recognises his earlier published comments (report and article, January 15) were something of a gaffe. His sweeping statements offended staff and displayed a surprisingly slight acquaintance with the organisation of which he is to be the head.

For example, English Heritage has around 800 staff based in the West End of London, not 1,700; the organisation does not have a "coun-

'Surplus' farmland

From Mr Michael Hughes

Sir, The problem of the countryside (letters, January 13 and 17) is not a shortage of houses but a growing shortage of jobs. If the outcome of the Gatt talks leads to more intensive farming there will be even fewer jobs available on the land. A village has few facilities for the old and infirm or for the young, so the proposed new housing would only make villages as dormitories for commuters.

What we need are rural communities where most work within a few miles and where neighbours know each other: country dwellers who do

Renewed threat to African elephant

From Sir Christopher Lever

Sir, The fate of Africa's elephants is once again likely to dominate the conference of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to be held in Japan in March.

At the last meeting of CITES in Switzerland, in 1989, the elephant was placed on Appendix I, thus affording it full international protection by banning trade in all elephant products. Calls from some southern African states for a relaxation in the world-wide trade ban are now seriously undermining the efforts of other African countries to conserve their surviving elephant herds.

Any weakening in the comprehensive protection presently afforded the elephant would be seen as a "green light" by those wishing to recommence the banned trade in ivory. Indeed, a recent seizure in Hong Kong of a large consignment of smuggled tusks suggests that ivory poachers in some parts of Africa are already anticipating a relaxation in the trading ban.

It is thus especially unfortunate that the pro-trade lobby will be taking comfort from the procrastination of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the British government on the question of the continued listing of the African elephant on Appendix I. Letters to Mr David Trippier, Minister for the Environment, Mr Tony Baldry of the Department of the Environment and

Dr Charles de Haas, Director-General of WWF International, have produced less than reassuring replies.

Although WWF and the government remain opposed to a resumption of trade in ivory, both are non-committal on the question of permitting trade in other elephant products, claiming that they await a report from a so-called "panel of experts": that this has not been made available less than eight weeks before the next CITES conference is, to say the least, regrettable.

At the last CITES conference the British government and WWF were severely criticised for delaying the announcement of their respective positions until the last moment, thus, in the opinion of many delegates, placing the outcome of the vote on a worldwide trade ban in jeopardy. If next March the trade in elephant products, other than ivory, is allowed there will undoubtedly be increasing pressure to lift the trade ban on stockpiled ivory also, which in turn would lead to an increase in poaching.

The African elephant has been the subject of slaughter throughout the 1980s and is unlikely to survive a further decade of destruction. The commitment now by WWF, the British government and the EC to the retention of full Appendix I listing would prove a major contribution to its long-term chances of survival.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER LEVER,
Newell House,
Winkfield, Berkshire.

Pollution policy

From the Minister for the Environment and Countryside

Sir, Ann Taylor's letter (January 16) gives an entirely false impression of government policy and makes a series of erroneous statements. Despite her protestations, she must be fully aware that the controls which the government introduced under the 1990 Environmental Protection Act do provide a powerful means to prevent pollution.

HM Inspectorate of Pollution (HMIP) has introduced rigorous systems to ensure that this and other environmental protection objectives are met in full and the government has backed the inspectorate and local authorities by providing them with the resources they need to do their job effectively.

Where companies fail to comply with the legislation, HMIP does not hesitate to prosecute (report, January 13). The fines are not "derisory": the Act, as you report, increased the maximum fines which can be levied

in a magistrate's court from £2,000 to £20,000, while there is no limit to fines imposed in the crown court. It is up to the judiciary to set the appropriate level of fines independent of the inspectorate.

Fines are only one part of our armoury for controlling industrial pollution. The main objective must be to make those who have the potential to cause environmental damage face the full costs of prevention.

In addition to these "rigorous systems of deterrence" (Ann Taylor's phrase) the government is committed to introducing an environment agency which will be responsible for pollution control across the board. It will ensure that environmentally sound decisions are made in relation to air, land and water; and that the arrangements for enforcing pollution control remain strong and independent, and are seen to be so.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TRIPPIER,
Department of the Environment,
2 Marsham Street, SW1.

Annigoni portrait

From Mr Myles Glover

Sir, Lady Egerton's letter (January 15) invites a crisp reply. An original is one thing, a copy is quite another.

The public interest entitles the Fishmongers' Annigoni portrait of the Queen to immunity from risk, even at the expense of exposing the Rome Embassy copy of it, owned by the Crown, to a greater risk than lending the original would have entailed. As between respective owners, this is not unfair.

Yours faithfully,
MYLES GLOVER (Clerk to the Skippers' Company, 1959-90),
Buckhall Farm, Bull Lane,
Bethersden, Nr Ashford, Kent.

not merely look at it out of the picture window but take an active part in its life, church-going, hunting, shooting, fishing, ferreting, improving the woodland, husbanding the riches of the soil.

A healthy society needs to be tied into the seasons of the earth, and the cycle of birth and death. Bury England under the patios of the green-walled walkers and you will bury what is left of the English. We need more jobs on the land, not more concrete.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HUGHES,
Sedgehill Manor,
Nr Shaftesbury, Dorset.

'A time to dance'

From Mr Norman McCandlish

Sir, Two of your correspondents (January 17) raise questions about the BBC's sense of responsibility in connection with the rape scene which featured in the first episode of *A time to dance* last Sunday.

In the novel, and in the television adaptation, the traumatic consequence of rape is one of the keys to the character of Bernadette.

Rape is ugly and vile and should not be portrayed otherwise. We portrayed it briefly, with an awareness of the shock that the scene would engender, as the screenplay

demanding. An announcement clearly indicating the nature of this sequence preceded its transmission and our publicity material also signposted the horror of the rape.

As I write we have as yet made only one third of the journey with Bernadette and Andrew. By the time the journey is complete I hope that the importance of this disturbing scene will be understood by the audience within the context of the whole work.

Yours etc.,
NORMAN MCCANDLISH
(Producer, *A time to dance*),
BBC Television Centre,
Wood Lane, W12,
January 17.

Business letters, page 21

Church patronage

From Mr P. M. A. Nokes

Sir, The Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986, criticised by the Reverend Michael Bennett (letter, January 9), contains some not ineffective checks and balances.

Mr Bennett says that in a multi-parish benefice a single dissenting parish representative "can thwart an appointment that may obviously be the right one." Certainly a representative may refuse to approve an offer of the living to the priest selected by the patron of the benefice; but in such circumstances that refusal must be accompanied by written reasons.

This not only concentrates the would-be dissenter's mind but also enables the patron to consider the merits of the refusal and to decide whether to request the archbishop to review the matter. If so requested, the archbishop has powers to authorise the making of an offer.

The code of practice issued by the General Synod office recommends that representatives be fully integrated in the selection process. If this is done, my experience is that the "non-professionals" are involved for far more than the 20 minutes suggested by Mr Bennett.

Yours faithfully,
P. M. A. NOKES
(Designated Officer),
Diocesan Office,
The Old Deanery, Wells, Somerset.

The play's the thing

From Mr Harold Pinter

Sir, Benedict Nightingale (Arts, January 15) states that I have written "three plays" in the last ten years. That is not the case. I have actually written five one-act plays and two sketches. The sketches might, I suppose, be described as "plays" but the plays, while short, remain plays.

Yours faithfully,
HAROLD PINTER,
c/o Judy Daish Associates Ltd.,
83 Eastbourne Mews, W2.

Plus or minus?

From Mr L. B. Wheatley

Sir, I agree that the Sandringham keepers look fine in their tweed outfits (report and photograph, January 14), but I must point out that their trousers are plus-twos and not plus-fours.

My cubmaster, Jack Skillen, always wore a tweed plus-four suit to cub nights and uniform for church parades. His trousers had a distinctly wider overlap to the tops of his socks.

Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE WHEATLEY,
Tegea, Lower Upton,
Bude, Cornwall.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Punch-drunk with words

TELEVISION

Screen Two: The Grass Arena BBC 2

FOR a film to employ both a fight arranger and a chess adviser is probably quite unusual — or so one reflected while the end-credits rolled after last night's *The Grass Arena*. Few stories in the history of cinema have required these skills in conjunction. "Queen's Pawn to Queen's Bishop Five," says Ward Bond, thoughtfully re-positioning a toothpick between his molars. "The hell he does," says John Wayne, and socks Bond on the jaw with such force that his reeling body knocks over all the other little chess tables in Miss Kitty's OK Saloon (and Games Parlor).

But *The Grass Arena* was based on a real life, so you couldn't argue with it. John Healy, whose autobiography was the source for this film, seemingly started life as a post-war, hunched-up, little-old-man kind of kid in a belted raincoat, whose Irish father knocked him about, and whose pleasures were intensely solitary (kicking a football against a wall only 18 inches away). He grew up to be a champion boxer on the amateur scene, blew it all by turning to drink, and entered a world of homeless bums where the main method of communication was to hurl bodies at people's heads. And then, miraculously, a cellmate in the clink revealed to him the delights of the chessboard, and immediately he stopped waking up on dank concrete floors with blood dribbling into his eyes.

It wouldn't work for everybody, of course — which is perhaps why the story was so compelling. What sort of man was he, then? In Mark Rylands' vivid embodiment of jangling emotional oscillations, he remained, rightly, a complete enigma. "You should join a club, do you know that?" his bullying father advised him (he meant a boxing club). The irony of

Healy's story, perhaps, was that he kept joining clubs and then being disappointed by them: looking for friendship, he found only competitors who wanted to knock him out (sometimes literally). His fellow alcoholics, for example, would happily dash out his brains for nippence; and as for the smoochy Sixties chess players whose brown corduroy world he gate-crashed, they would probably waive the fee.

The film ended with Healy turning his back on the checkerboard, and forging off into the dark to become a writer. This was fine. "He is now an acclaimed author," said a helpful caption, but it seemed to suggest that this had automatically wrought an end to loneliness. Some chance. Had the London literary club really been any more welcoming than the league of winos or the confederacy of chess-players? Getting published by Faber & Faber is not necessarily an end to despair: it is sometimes the reverse.

The interesting thing about *The Grass Arena* was that, despite the quantities of blood, grime, booze, drool and vomit, it did not feel like degradation. If it was about anything, it was about bad stress management. The boy with the hunched-up shoulders had his bottle in an attempt to "loosen up"; but the child is father to the man, and Rylands was sometimes so painfully stiff that when he stretched his arm you could almost hear the squeal and shudder of an old iron gate.

It was symptomatic that Healy's life was divided into different "arenas" — the boxing ring, the grass of the parks, the checkerboard. Rylands did brilliantly to convey the childlike mixture of optimism and world-weariness, vulnerability and resilience, inanity and astuteness that drove this fellow along his peculiar lonely course of public tournaments and hollow victories. Thank goodness Healy discovered yoga and transcendental meditation before it was too late.

LYNNE TRUSS



Knock-out part: Mark Rylands plays the eternal outsider, John Healy

THEATRE

The Last Hallucinations of Lucas Cranach the Elder ICA

THE best known of Lucas Cranach the Elder's friends and sisters was Martin Luther, but, somewhat sadly, it is not that "beast of the waste wood", as Hopkins called him, who comes crawling into the painter's fevered brain on what this show actually suggests is his deathbed. Instead, the last-gasp visions are Venus, Eve and a series of fashionable ladies who somehow contrive to be not a less naked for wearing clothes. Old Lucas expires dreaming of faces, bosoms and, just occasionally, points further south.

Art Nicole Moscovitz and Patrick Bonie, Belgian co-creators of *Last Hallucinations*, right to claim that behind Cranach's "images of innocence and virtue" are "bathes of a very different world, shot through with sensuality, distortion and violence". That is a question more safely directed at art than drama critics, though I myself would have thought that the celebrated *Judgement of Paris* — those grizzled military types, on the brink of moving from gloating to groping — was pretty

open about matters sexual. Nevertheless, the one-man, three-woman cast do succeed in what is presumably their main aim: to create a set of strange and haunting stage pictures.

They appear in little squares of light in what is eventually dimly revealed as a puny, cloudy world. There is a woman with a cylindrical red hat like Anna Cuspidaria's, a woman wearing feathers like the Duchess Katherine, and other less identifiable but doubtless authentic figures. An organ replaces creepy metallic noises, and then distant, airy chanting takes over, as they sway, turn, touch and gradually launch into more adventurous action. A bishop puts out his ringed hand to be kissed, and somehow it ends up stroking first a face, then a breast. Women's fingers dance across a scrawny male torso. Eve elaborately tempts Adam with an apple that eventually lands in the hands of Venus, imperiously laying in a niche below. So it goes on.

The show is probably aimed less at the *homoieus sensus* than at the *homoieus estheticus*; but, as it turns out, there is something here for them both. It tells no story, eschews gymnastic display, and makes no bravura demands on its performers: it still has the imagination and quiet power to establish its own idiom and draw the spectator in.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THEATRE La Ronde Watermans Arts Centre

BECAUSE of the success of the Max Ophüls film, Schindler's cycle of 10 plays, *Der Reigen*, seems fated to be known over here by its French title. Following the riots that interrupted the play's Viennese premiere, the playwright banned further productions, a ban which remained until the copyright expired in 1984.

After the sweet, frilly cynicism of the film the harshness of the play comes as a shock. Three of the women are young enough, and relatively innocent enough, to hope that an evening of love will bring them happiness; the other two have become hardened, and the men's attitudes range between coarseness and dim sentimentality. The elegance is in the form: Where meets Soldier, Soldier meets Housemaid, Housemaid meets Young Man and so on, closing the circle when the Count wakes up in the Whore's wretched room and, in this production, a telephone rings to start another circle. Beside Schindler's unadorned studies of the hunt for sex, the Ophüls film is froth.

Cedric's production for Actors Touring Company follows the example of Shared Experience 10

years ago and performs the play with one actor and one actress. A more experienced pair could have the time of their life hopping between the different ages and classes but for an actor making his professional debut, the demands are heavy. Colin Watson's Soldier is properly brutal and for the Young Man he finds a nice time in yallow hesitation but his older man lack weight and his Count does not convince.

Victoria Scarborough nearly convinces as the ageing Actress but is more at home with the nervously quavering Housemaid or the sparkle of the Sweet Young Girl. She is also persuasive, and comic too, when desire battles with convention in the heart of the Young Married Woman, the most interesting of the characters because she is caught at the moment of change.

The costumes sing with colour — powder pink dress, mustard yellow suit — though their modern style jars weirdly with talk of cavalry officers. And while it is amusing to watch items of furniture accumulate at the side of the stage, the actors have to change the scenes themselves, and one of them has to change costume. Snatches of waltz fill the time but these gaps suggest a carousel that has run out of customers, not the ceaseless, giddy whirl of lust.

JEREMY KINGSTON

CONCERT

Halle/Groves Free Trade Hall, Manchester

NOBODY could accuse William Mathias of being a trend-follower. But his amazing fluency and consistency over some 40 years have brought him considerable success. If he seldom hits the headlines in England, his compositions are in high demand in both mainland Europe and America.

as well as in his native Wales. From his new Violin Concerto, commissioned by the Halle Concert Society, it was easy to see why. Not just because his gently acrobatic style can hardly give offence, nor even because he writes with an undeniable and uncluttered musical logic, but also because everything fits easily into place. A moderately good youth orchestra would have little difficulty in giving it a decent performance, and it is easy to predict a fair success.

Moreover it builds comfortably on the received tradition of classic violin

concertos with hints of Mendelssohn, Bruch and particularly Elgar — not just in the strummed pizzicatos that accompany the long cadenza in the last movement but also in some of its thematic material. And if that looks like slightly double-edged praise, I should add that the concerto is a superb example of its genre.

But it will need a soloist as fine as György Pauk, the dedicatee. He played, as always, with effortless lucidity, giving an awesome grace to the angular and trill-laden lines. He must take a lot of the credit for making the work sound so coherent.

Sir Charles Groves conducted in a characteristically unflappable manner, and the Halle supported him well, with Hugh McKenna contributing a particularly well-turned oboe solo in the third movement. For the most part, Groves's unfussy approach brought a well-judged playing in Beethoven's first *Leonora* overture and Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony — both of which could benefit from a more edge.

DAVID FALLOWS
Arts features, page 10

16 REVIEWS

NEW RELEASES

♦ **COUP DE VILLE** (12): Three warring brothers in a civil war across country in a 1954 Civil War film of road movie, male-bonding comedy, and 1950s nostalgia. With Patrick Dempsey, Arne Goss, Daniel Stern; director, Jon Roth. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2538) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 0148) MGM Tracorder (071-434 0031).

♦ **DERISU UZALA** (12): Renewal of Kurosawa's haunting, elegiac film exploring human values in a Siberian forest. 1975. ICA Cinema (071-930 3947).

♦ **DON'T TELL HER IT'S ME** (12): Sty teacher (Steven Seagal) pursues his dream of (James Earl Ray) as a New Zealand hitler. Hilarious, untidy comedy. With Shelley Long, director, Malcolm McDowell. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2538) MGM Tracorder (071-434 0031).

♦ **FRANKIE AND JOHNNY** (15): Short-story cook (Al Pacino) turns a wily waitress (Michelle Pfeiffer) into a play. Director, Barry Mendel. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2538) Empire (071-497 6688) Whiteleys (071-782 3332).

♦ **FREDDY'S DEAD: THE FINAL NIGHTMARE** (18): Chas-Myer Freddy Krueger's last, but not finest, hour. Some paltry 3D effects, a few low-budget moments elsewhere. With Robert Englund, director, Rachel Talalay. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2538) Empire (071-497 6688) Whiteleys (071-782 3332).

♦ **LITTLE MAN TATE** (PG): How and how not to rear a child prodigy. An engaging young player (Adam Harris) and sensible director (John Ford) easily offset the facile moments. Odessa Heymarket (0426 918353).

♦ **MISSISSIPPI MASALA** (15): Indians displaced from Uganda to Mississippi feel over race and young love. Sharp insights, but soggy at the end. Starting Sushie Choudhary, Daniel Washington. Director, Mira Nair. Corson West End (071-430 4603).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and elsewhere indicated with the symbol (C) on release across the country.

CURRENT

♦ **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** (PG): Tasty feast of black humour, inspired by the 1960s TV spin-off from Charles Addams's macabre cartoons. Starring Raul Julia, Anjelica Huston, Christopher Lloyd, director, Barry Sonnenfeld. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2538) Empire (071-497 6688) Whiteleys (071-782 3332).

♦ **AMERICAN TALE: FEVER** (15): A young man's quest for the 1967 American film about immigrant life: best when it reverts to Western cliché. A British film of the same production, director, Phil Nibbelink. Simon Wells. MGM Tracorder (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-782 3332).

♦ **BILLY BATHOPE** (15): Hero-worshipping kid John Dunn Schultze's gang in 1930s New York. Muffled, disappointing version of E.L. Doctorow's 1988 best-selling novel. Starring Dustin Hoffman, Loran Dunn, director, Robert Benton. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2538) Empire (071-497 6688) Whiteleys (071-782 3332).

♦ **THE BRIDGE** (12): Vapid British thriller about a Victorian wife's summer affair with a man. With Emma Thompson, David Oyler, director, Syd Macartney. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2538) Empire (071-497 6688) Whiteleys (071-782 3332).

♦ **THE COMMITMENTS** (15): Hard-boiled Duke youngsters form a soul band. Fresh, funny, and buoyantly played by a largely amateur cast. Director, Alan Parker. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2538) Empire (071-497 6688) Whiteleys (071-782 3332).

THEATRE GUIDE

♦ **Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London**

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

♦ **MURMURING JUDGES**: David Hare tackles our rotting legal system: gaps in the contest but a powerful performance. National (Oxford), South Bank, SE1 (071-822 2252) Tonight, tomorrow, 7.15pm, mat 2.30pm, 14.95m, mat 1.45m.

♦ **ONCE A CATHOLIC**: Welcome return of Mary J. O'Malley's romping comedy about convent girls growing up between nuns and lads. With Pauline Collins, director, Peter Kosminsky. National (Oxford), South Bank, SE1 (071-822 2252) Tonight, tomorrow, 7.15pm, mat 2.30pm, 14.95m, mat 1.45m.

♦ **THE RIDE DOWN MY MORGAN**: Arthur Miller's deceptively one-sided play where Tom Conroy argues the case for bigamy. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-877 1118), Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat 2.30pm, 14.95m, mat 1.45m.

♦ **THE SEA**: J.D. Salinger as the village grande dame in revival of Edward Bond's "comedy" of rage and madness. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-822 2252) Tonight, tomorrow, 7.15pm, mat 2.30pm, 14.95m, mat 1.45m.

TODAY'S EVENTS

♦ **Schubert's 34-36 New Bond Street, W1 (071-406 5168)**, Mon-Fri, 8pm-4.30pm, until Friday.

♦ **SIMPLY RED**: Assured white soulful Mick Hucknall showcases his from the group's fourth album. Shere, its most successful to date. Simply Red has few peers when it comes to delivering intelligent and heartfelt soul music and has a knack for creating an intimate atmosphere in even the largest of venues. First of two Birmingham dates. NBS, Birmingham (021-700 4133).

♦ **DIVAS**: The trio of Liz Aspin and Billy Cowie present a double bill that has the premiere of Agnès's solo, *El Puntal Extra* and *El Conde*, which uses lyrics from the "songs of the people" of the Spanish male in the second half. Divas reveals its warrior side with *La Chanson des Douces*, composed of 11 songs with lyrics by the French poet Verlaine. South Bank, London SE1 (071-822 2252), 7.45pm.

♦ **TIME CHANGES**: The second of the Festival Ensemble's two-concert series given the last night's performance of "Time Changes" included works for double bass, guitar, piano and percussion by Tadeusz Dabrowski, Bill Connor, Klausen, Leon Kirchner and Justin Connolly. Connolly himself introduces the programme, and Martin Feinstein directs. South Bank, London SE1 (071-822 2252), 7.45pm.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 15

DOCH AND DORIS

(a) Literally doch + doris + at the + doris door, therefore a stirrup cap, although it is taken from the story of the woman who lost her hair for damages when her neighbour's cow drank the beer fermenting outside her door. The judge ruled that, since the cow was standing up to drink, the ale was doch-at-doris, a traditionally free parking drink.

WINNING MOVE

This position is from the game Short - Adams, Duncan-Lewis Championship 1921. Black had resigned before this position was reached. What had he anticipated?

STRAIT

(a) A broad valley like that of the river Clyde, or Strathclyde, from the Latin strata a street.

GRALLOCH

(a) and (b) The intentions of a deer, or the disembowelling of the animal, usually carried out and left on the hillside, though it makes excellent haggis. From the Gaelic gralloch entrails.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

WINNING MOVE

Solution on page 15

MAN OF THE WEEK

Lonrho's legend faces the facts

At 73, Tiny Rowland, the enigmatic head of Lonrho, is the oldest *enfant terrible* in town. When not using his private jet to visit African dignitaries, he can be seen in London's City headquarters in Cheap-side, nurturing an empty diary in readiness for the truly sensational invitation. Like a wizard weaving spells, he has, over the years, created an aura of mystique and so much so that no one is quite sure if he is fact or fantasy.

Frequently reported as suffering from a mysterious illness — in fact it is malaria, which comes and goes — some say he keeps going on spite. Waging wars of venom, he displays quite extraordinary endurance as his seven-year campaign against the Paved Brothers over House of Fraser shows. More recently, he astonished the City with his deft dispatch of would-be predator Alan Bond.

Vastly rich and devastatingly handsome, he can be a warm and loyal friend, showing a penchant for befriending the needy, such as Sir Freddie Laker and Ernest Saunders.

With select exceptions, he leaves his press relations to the official care of Paul Spicer, his deputy chairman. Those whom he does favour with his presence become instantly bewitched by his



Rowland: charm
charm. "It is as if he sprinkles fairy dust over them and their vision becomes quite distorted," says one observer. Fate is not smiling on Rowland at the moment. When Lonrho announces its annual results, analysts expect profits to have fallen from £273 million to about £255 million against a background of weak metal prices.

Borrowings have risen to about 70 per cent and there is speculation that the dividend will be cut. Doubtless Rowland will shrug it off with his usual disdain for the City and the establishment. But love him or hate him, Tiny Rowland is one of the few men of whom it can be said, he is a legend in his own lifetime.

JUDI BEVAN
Week ahead, page 23

Stores helped by Sunday trading

Christmas sales rise by less than expected

By GEORGE SIVELL AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

RETAILERS had a better Christmas in 1991 than the previous year but trading was not as strong as they had predicted, the CBI's monthly *Distributive Trades Survey* reports this morning. The 502 retailers surveyed said sales last month were up on a year ago but by far less than they had expected in November responses.

The survey precedes government retail sales figures this morning that are expected to show no change between November and December and a slight rise on December 1990. The figures will provide modest comfort to a government looking for signs of an economic upturn as it heads towards a general election.

The Chambers of Commerce quarterly survey of the economy is published on

Wednesday. It will coincide with industrial output figures expected to show no change from October and a fall of more than 2 per cent on the previous year. Looking to January, the retailers surveyed by the CBI expect sales volumes to slip below last year's levels, the first monthly fall since last June.

Nigel Whitaker, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades panel, says: "The heavy price discounting seen throughout December did not produce the boost in trade that retailers had hoped for. As I warned last month, this price cutting may well have led consumers to make purchases in December they would otherwise have made in the January sales."

On wholesalers, Mr Whitaker comments: "Following three months of year-on-year growth in volumes, sales in December slipped below the already depressed levels of a year ago. December's setback

had not been anticipated, and led to a further build up of stocks." However, the big food retailers that opened on Sundays in the run-up to Christmas benefited from the experience, according to Verdict, the market research group. Sainsbury, Tesco, Asda and Asda continue to open a number of their stores on Sundays. Verdict believes the Sunday grocery trade will eventually be worth about £2.5 billion in sales, most of which will be shifted from other days of the week.

Verdict says it will take time for the public to change their shopping habits and for any realistic assessment of Sunday trading to be made but it says Sunday trading is here to stay and has the backing of the majority of the public.

"The big stores have the flexibility to adjust costs in the week to make up for the additional costs of opening on a Sunday," the latest Verdict report on grocers and supermarkets says. "The greater convenience of being open on a 'rest' day, when all the family can shop, should act to expand the market. With its greater non-food offer, Asda in particular should benefit."

Verdict estimates that the turnover of the grocery sector rose by 9.9 per cent in 1991 to reach £44 billion. This compares with a 3.8 per cent increase in total non-food retail sales. Of the grocery increase, 6.2 per cent was due to inflation, 3.5 per cent to new floor space, leaving 0.2 per cent volume growth.

Asda, the supermarket group, today launches an "extra value" special offer campaign in an attempt to boost sales, although other supermarkets are playing down talk of a price war and struggling off Asda's challenge.

Tesco said: "We are just treating it as a normal price promotion and we will not be making any direct response." Sainsbury, which launched its own "January sale" a fortnight ago, does not comment on its rivals.



Calling the shots: Sir Peter Parker, chairman of the management bid for MGN

Parker in driving seat of MGN management bid

By MATTHEW BOND

SIR Peter Parker, the former chairman of British Rail, has been confirmed as chairman of the management consortium that hopes to buy Mirror Group Newspapers, now under the control of administrators to Robert Maxwell's private businesses.

The appointment comes at the end of a week in which rivals Pearson and Mercury Asset Management announced they would not bid for MGN. An earlier interested party, Lonrho, also withdrew.

All three groups have been deterred by the huge sums of money reported to be missing from the Mirror pension funds, the transfer of which is now the subject of a Serious Fraud Office enquiry. The only remaining interest in buying MGN comes from the management consortium and a consortium being put together by Hambros Bank.

Yesterday, Sir Peter said a condition of taking the job was that any deal agreed by the consortium and the Maxwell administrators, would enable all pension entitlements to be met. "I would have nothing to do with anything that would not meet the obligations of pensioners. One could not go forward unless there were answers to the reported loss of £500 million from the pension fund and corporate treasury."

Sir Peter, who chairs Evered Bardon, Mitsubishi Electric UK and the London School of Economics, said he had been brought on board by Michael Stoddart, chairman of Electra, the investment trust backing the

management team. He added that he had never had any business dealings with Robert Maxwell, but had met him on many occasions. "I once did a sketch of him on a menu. I remember he pocketed it."

With the appointment taking immediate effect, the consortium will push for an early deal. However, MGN's 1991 accounts, which should identify assets and liabilities and quantify the pension fund shortfall, are not expected before March.

Sir Peter said: "The Mirror papers are in a market that gives no quarter. Time is ab-

solutely crucial. If this whole thing just drags on, there could be a deterioration in morale and a deterioration in the assets."

Richard Stott, editor of the *Daily Mirror* and until now leader of the consortium, said: "The appointment of Sir Peter advances our proposals and we look forward to his assistance and considerable experience in dealing with the various parties now involved with MGN."

Liquidator's threat, page 3
Diary, page 12
Comment, page 23

US calls a halt to dollar's rapid rise

By OUR ECONOMICS STAFF

AMERICA has called a halt to the sharp rise in the dollar after heavy central bank intervention from New York and Tokyo just a week before the Group of Seven leading trading nations meet in Washington.

The joint action, which was taken late on Friday night, surprised the foreign exchange markets. It came amid indications that the American authorities felt that the present levels of the dollar were adequate, and wrong-footed dealers who had regarded the dollar as a one-way bet, particularly in the light of strong recent increases in American shares. A low dollar would also help American exports, easing the country's struggle to emerge

from recession. On Friday, the dollar ended sharply lower, closing almost 4 yen down at 124.45 yen. Against the mark, the dollar fell from DM1.6265 to 1.5920.

The rise in the dollar started on January 9, and came after a prolonged decline connected with the 0.5 percentage point rise in the German/lombard rate to 9.75 per cent, and the 1 percentage point drop in the American discount rate to 3.5 per cent.

Confidence in the mark was boosted further on comments last week by Hans Tietmeyer, vice president of the Bundesbank, that German interest rates were to remain high for a considerable time.

Germany fears recession

JÜRGEN Möllemann, Germany's controversial economic minister, says the German economy will fall into recession, "if we make the wrong decisions" (Wolfgang Münchau writes).

In what amounts to his most outspoken warning so far on the state of the economy, Herr Möllemann singled out the country's trade unions, some of which have demanded pay rises of more than 10 per cent at a time when Germany is struggling to contain inflation, which is now more than 4 per cent.

At a meeting of the Free Democratic Party, the Bonn coalition's junior partner, of

which he is a leading member, Herr Möllemann said: "Those who push wage-unit costs higher than productivity now will boost inflation and interest rates, reduce competitiveness and kill jobs in Germany."

The economics minister and trade union leaders have recently engaged in a series of bitter exchanges, each side accusing the other of aggravating the country's already difficult economic position.

He also called for strong reductions in government spending, a most difficult task in a country where spending cuts are normally regarded a taboo subject.

"The alternative is more debt or higher taxes or sacrificing investment or sacrificing jobs or a combination of all these," he said.

Herr Möllemann said earlier that he downgraded growth prospects for this year from more than 2.5 per cent to between 1 and 2 per cent. This forecast will form part of a wider economic assessment, which will be presented to the government by the end of this month. For the eastern part of Germany, the forecast will reaffirm previous predictions of 10 per cent growth this year.

Economic view, page 21

Privateers privatise privatisation

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S experimental privatisation-through-vouchers scheme was never going to be easy, but few would have expected such a mess so early in the process.

Today, the Czechoslovak finance ministry is expected to announce a ten-day halt to the voucher registration process in order to guarantee sufficient supplies and also to find out why vouchers have "gone missing" and how many vouchers have been amassed by speculators.

Western advisers to Václav Klaus, finance minister, predicted the sheer logistical effort of the distribution and registration of the vouchers and the establishment of an orderly market would pose a formidable problem.

Czechoslovakia has adopted a mass privatisation scheme under which each adult citizen is entitled, for a fee of 1,000 korunas (€20) or about a third of a monthly wage, to investment vouchers, which can later be translated into shares in the country's companies.

The result is that part of the state-owned industry can be turned over to the people directly, with the benefit that the ensuing restructuring process would receive greatly increased public



Klaus: determined to sail on

support. The deadline for registration is the end of this month. By the end of December 700,000 Czechoslovaks had registered for the scheme, but this number has risen now to almost two million, after private funds and speculators offered to buy vouchers at many times the registration price, and many more people are now queuing up, causing shortages.

It is also becoming clear that many Czechoslovak citizens treat privatisation much differently than the British did during the Eighties. Many

people take their entitlements and then sell them for a quick profit, effectively wiping out the political benefits of the scheme.

So, there is a growing risk that in Czechoslovakia, like elsewhere in Eastern Europe, shareholdings will be concentrated among a number of institutions. Many of the operators employ sales staff across the country to try to wean citizens off their vouchers.

To prevent a complete abuse of the system, the privatisation ministers of the Czech and the Slovak republics have agreed to a ten-day voucher moratorium, to take stock of the situation, but since this is a federal scheme, the final word is with Mr Klaus's ministry.

The process, due to have started last autumn, has already been postponed once to allow companies to pursue their own privatisation alternatives.

Mr Klaus might agree to a registration moratorium, but his determination to proceed with the scheme should not be underestimated. It is, after all, the flagship of his policies. But then, Britain's community charge, which has also not quite worked in the intended way, and suffers from similar logistical difficulties, was once also hailed as a flagship.

Finance director expected to leave at BAE

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

BRITISH Aerospace is expected to announce the resignation of Dudley Eustace, its finance director, this week. The expected departure of Mr Eustace, who was appointed in 1988, follows a traumatic year for Britain's largest exporter, and amounts to yet another change in the company's top management after last year's resignation of Professor Sir Roland Smith as chairman.

The company confirmed that it is in negotiations over the settlement of an indemnity claim by Asda, the supermarket chain, in respect of a £450 million property deal struck in late 1989.

The contract was over the establishment of a joint venture retail property group, Burwood House, which incorporated some of Asda's superstores and some development properties of Arlington, BAE's property subsidiary. The contract, however, contained an indemnity clause under which Asda would be reimbursed by Arlington in case of a fall in the market value of Arlington's properties that were brought into the joint venture company. It is understood that an independent valuation estimated that between December 1989 and December 1990 the market value of these properties had fallen by £80 million.

BAE, although confirming that it is in negotiations with Asda, did not want to speculate on the amount of any eventual settlement. The company said: "We were not in possession of a claim before our rights issue. We have made provisions in our accounts that would meet our obligations in that respect."

The developments come at the end of a particularly difficult year for BAE, which has been affected by the world downturn in aerospace and car manufacturing. Management changes come after the flop of a £432 million rights issue in October, with less than 5 per cent of shares being taken up by investors. The company forecast a net loss after £250 million of rationalisation costs.

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CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7857 (-0.0198)
German mark
2.8509 (+0.0123)
Exchange index
90.4 (same)

Bank of England official
close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1986.8 (+82.6)
FT-SE 100
2536.7 (+58.8)
New York Dow Jones
3264.98 (+65.52)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg
21321.37 (-1060.53)

Hanson has them guessing over a European deal

LORD Hanson, Britain's best-known takeover specialist, is increasingly casting his eyes towards continental Europe now the playing field for the purchaser has had one or two of the more conspicuous bumps flattened out by the European Community.

This was the main message from a meeting of French analysts in Paris, one of a series of annual get-togethers for brokers in the French capital and in Zurich and Geneva, on all of whose stock exchanges Hanson is listed.

But the massed chief executives of European companies should not break out into a cold sweat just yet. The acquisitive peer is happier these days with a friendly approach. Hanson's last two decent-sized purchases, Beazer, the building group, and Consolidated Gold Fields, have been bids for groups enthusiastic enough to assent to the Hanson treatment. Meanwhile the chemical warfare is continuing over the purchase of 2.8 per cent of ICI last year.

But Peter Harper, chairman of Hanson's British industrial division, told the French that in any event Hanson would prefer a friendly acquisition, adding that European Community

Hanson is looking over companies on the Continent.

Martin Waller considers the motive behind this move

bid rules have yet to be tested. Mr Harper put Hanson's war chest, or borrowing power, at \$15.8 billion, even after paying for Beazer. "We want to move into continental Europe. The opportunity for such a move we have not yet discovered," he said. Hanson had been seeking opportunities in continental Europe for the last three to five years but had always been held back from buying a European firm by the thought it could be thwarted by hidden laws.

Now the European Commission has the power to rule on cross-border EC bids, and "we applaud that power," Mr Harper said. Hanson has better connections in France and Spain than other European countries, he added.

Alexander Notter, an associate director, said the Swedish approach to business had impressed Hanson, but targets in other countries were not excluded.

Hanson is keeping its op-

tions open over the ICI stake. "We reserve our position," said Mr Harper, adding that any outcome was possible. British analysts will have their chance to question Lord Hanson at a half-day briefing at the Q&A Centre in London on February 14, or earlier if they can collar him after the annual shareholders' meeting on January 28.

They were left scratching their heads over the French pronouncement. Hanson is well known to be big Over Here, in Britain, and Over There, in America, but so far has precious little Over In That Direction, in continental Europe, and that little picked up only by accident with other purchases.

Martin Taylor, the Hanson vice chairman, confirmed that the only manufacturing facility was a jacuzzi factory near Venice and the only real business was in exports. He said recent rules relating to mergers emanating from Brussels had, however, quickened the group's interest in the Continent.

Analysts were more dubious, several ascribing the statement to a need to say something vaguely European at a European gathering rather than to any more concrete plans. Mike Murphy at Warburg Securities said: "I'm sure they are looking in continental Europe, but the language barriers are still there and always have been. Language and cultural barriers are greater than legal ones. I don't think you should read into this that a big European acquisition is likely."

Charles Pick at Nomura Research Institute thought that although the European market was now easier to break into, prices were still too high for corporate buyers like Hanson. "It does seem that they perceive it as a bit of a deficiency that they are so US- and UK-oriented at the moment, although that's been the basis of their success so far."

A third Hanson-watcher, less keen to prognosticate in public view given the group's proven ability to wringfoot forecasters, said: "We still think they will be looking at the UK or US even though the UK is looking a touch on the expensive side at the moment."

One problem in Europe for the normal Hanson *modus operandi*, which involves sending a boarding party, stripping out the costs and selling the streamlined and renovated vessel at a profit, is the difficulty of shedding staff in most countries, where the laws on redundancy are complex and expensive.



Gordian knot: Analysts are divided over whether Lord Hanson will complicate matters with a European buy

Foresters split over privatisation

By MATTHEW BOND

CALLS for an early privatisation of the Forestry Commission, which could swell government coffers by more than £1 billion, have divided the forestry industry.

A split in the senior ranks of those who grow Britain's trees has become apparent since the publication, last month of two papers calling for the already-postponed privatisation to go ahead.

The Centre for Policy Studies, publisher of *What's Good for Woods*, a paper written by Robert Rickman of Forestry Investment Management, is to hold a conference in London in March to discuss the future of the 73-year-old government-funded body.

The revived debate comes as the Edinburgh-based com-

mission is already well advanced on a management reorganisation that would simplify a sale to the private sector.

From April, the commission will be divided into two parts — the Forestry Authority, a regulatory body responsible for implementing the government's forestry policy, and Forestry Enterprise, whose principal commercial asset will be 2.2 million acres of growing plantations with a reported market value of £1.6 billion.

The commission denies that privatisation is the motive behind the restructuring. Others, however, believe that for a re-elected Conservative government an early sale of Forestry Enterprise —

which will be Britain's biggest forestry company — would be too good an opportunity to miss.

Critics of an early sale include Timber Growers UK, the organisation that represents many of Britain's 4,500 woodland owners. Peter Wilson, TGUK's technical director, said the 50 per cent fall in new planting caused by the 1988 Budget, which ended the setting off of forestry expenditure against income, meant that now was not the time for further change. "The last thing we need is any extra uncertainty caused by selling off the commission," he said.

Supporters of Mr Rickman's proposals, not surprisingly, include the private forestry management com-

panies. Barry Gamble, managing director of Spanish Forestry, believes that the commission's own restructuring is not the answer. "I don't see that these are radical changes compared to what goes on within a private company. Certainly I would like to see privatisation progressed sooner rather than later," he said.

Peter Johnson, chairman of Tihill, Economic Forestry, the Booker subsidiary that manages 350,000 acres for institutional and private clients, believes the tough financial targets set by the government have weakened the commission's position in the commercial timber market, and conflict with its role as an effective regulator.

Brittan seeks to break Italian barrier

FROM TOM WALKER IN ROME

SIR Leon Brittan has sent a protest letter to the Italian government disputing a new law that virtually bans foreign companies from trading on Italy's stock exchanges. It is the latest step in a desperate rearguard action by the EC competition commissioner to keep his investment services directive (ISD) on track.

A reply from the Italian government on the law is expected next month. Meanwhile, Sir Leon must try to get the ISD momentum going again: resuscitation attempts failed under the Dutch presidency and the extent of Portugal's commitment is unknown. No discussions on the directive have yet been scheduled by the new presidency.

Sir Leon has complained about the law, known as "Simi", which came into effect from January 1, not only because it flies in the face of everything he is trying to achieve for the EC's financial services market, but also because of a barrage of complaints from British stockbrokers at such a blatantly protectionist move.

In Sir Leon's vision, the ISD would allow EC securities firms to provide services throughout European stock exchanges.

"Basically we consider Simi to be a major step backwards," said Sir Leon's spokesman last week. Commission securities experts admit that other southern EC countries have similarly restrictive laws, but have been shocked at the extent of Simi. Known as such because the law provides a monopoly on share trading to the Società di Intermediazione Mobiliare, Simi requires foreign companies to incorporate locally if they wish to deal for their own or a third party's account; distribute shares; manage portfolios; collect buy and sell orders; or provide any advice.

It covers the full range of investment services and is more far-reaching than anything else in the Community, a Commission expert said. "We received numerous complaints on the Simi law from the UK, and we've got a prima facie case that it breaks EC law."

Sir Leon has attacked the law because it appears to infringe both articles 52 and 59 of the Treaty of Rome, which lay down the rights of companies to set up branches elsewhere in the Community and provide services wherever they like. Both articles say restrictions in these areas must be "progressively abolished".

"Putting a law like this into place in 1992 really wasn't a smart move," said another Commission source. Ironically, Italy has not been one of the most vociferous opponents of the ISD, even appearing to support it at finance ministers' meetings.

"Italy has supported the directive, at least verbally," said a puzzled Commission source. The directive calls for mutual recognition — you trust our laws, we'll trust yours. Simi seems to move in the opposite direction.

The Commission expert admits that "it would take a very tight timetable" to put the ISD in place for 1993, but says Sir Leon's team "is urging progress". And he gives warning that the effects of failure have been understated.

"The ISD is a major plank in the single market. Failure to agree it would not give a good signal. It would be serious."



Ambitious: Raschid (left) and Osman Abdullah

Never a dull day with Starmin

INVESTORS who followed the Abdullah brothers into the company now known as Starmin have had plenty of excitement in the past two years. Three rights issues and a series of acquisitions set the pattern for rapid growth and a volatile share price.

Shares in Starmin, formerly known as SI Group, an aliling manufacturer of drink dispensing equipment, soared in September 1989 after Raschid and Osman Abdullah took a controlling stake, raising expectations of the sort of growth once enjoyed by Evered, their previous vehicle.

The brothers wasted little time in redirecting Starmin into quarries and building products, a sector they know well, calling on the City for funds to finance acquisitions three times, with each rights issue larger than the previous one. The hectic pace set by the Abdullahs was no less than should have been expected and it is clear that the company harbours further expansionary ambitions.

Starmin has a record, albeit a short one, against which expectations can be measured. Lovie, Starmin's first major acquisition in 1990, was expected to earn £1 million in 1991, against £300,000 in its final year under previous ownership.

The Scottish company has benefited from steady demand, coupled with cost-saving measures arising from computerisation, new transport controls and the removal of the old family-based management structure.

Similar improvements are expected at Warracott, acquired last year for £13 million. In the year to the end of May it incurred losses of £36,000 but by 1993 pre-tax profits of about £2 million a year are envisaged.

Mike Betts, an analyst at Schroders, estimates that in the year ended December, Starmin earned profits of about £3 million before tax, compared with a reported £764,000 in the previous 12 months. Mr Betts expects profits of £6 million this year and earnings of 1.3p, assuming no further acquisitions.

The shares have fallen from a high of 22p last year to 14p, just below the price at which new shares were offered in the most recent rights issue.

Further issues cannot be ruled out as the company pursues its ambitions to become a leading player in its sector, a factor which may inhibit performance in the short-term.

But the earnings profile should ensure support from the Abdullahs' loyal followers.

MARTIN BARROW

Super bowl is not so super for CBS

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

WHAT is almost 200 yards long, weighs ten tons and can bring in advertising revenue of £16,000 a second? The American Super Bowl: the three-and-a-half hour band-marching cheer-leading transatlantic equivalent to the FA Cup Final — as American as apple pie.

Broadcast to an expected audience of 120 million — six times the average number who tuned into Cable News Network during the Gulf war — the Super Bowl attracts the most expensive advertising in the world. Each second costs \$28,300. But for the first time in living memory, there is no clamour to buy time. With less than a week to go before helmets clash, the troubled CBS network which has exclusive television rights, has unfilled slots.

The maximum it could earn from the 25 minutes of advertising time be-

tween the four 45-minute quarters and the 30-minute band parade at half time, is \$43 million. CBS are not returning telephone calls on the subject.

This year's clash will be one of the most avidly watched in history, a grudge match between the Buffalo Bills and the Washington Redskins played at the 63,000-capacity Metrodome in Minneapolis.

The 94 players (each team is allowed only 11 of its 47 men on the field at any one time) weigh a total of 10 tons (22,000 pounds) without padded protection and, laid end to end, would stretch most of the way between Buckingham Palace and Horse Guards Parade (193 yards).

CBS, which swapped its rota year to televise the event, is so worried at not filling all 50 30-second air time slots that it is offering advertisers a two-for-one deal with its coverage of the Winter Olympics: buy a Super Bowl advertisement at full cost and get a reduced rate for the slalom event.

Most of the big guns are already signed up: PepsiCo; McDonald's; Nike sports shoes; Anheuser-Busch, the brewer of "Bud"; American Isuzu Motors; and Merrill Lynch. Master Lock, the security group, will blow the equivalent of a year's advertising budget on one 30-second ad. Even so, recessionary cuts in advertising budgets have thwarted the usual stampede for time.

The Super Bowl is also under attack from a different quarter. Frito-Lay, the snack food division of Pepsi, has bought the entire advertising slots that surround a special edition of *Living Color*, a highly successful black comedy show, which Fox Broadcasting, owned by News Corporation, will screen during the Super Bowl's half-hour break mid-way through the game. There could even be an impact on the foreign exchange markets. Finance ministers from the Group of Seven industrialised countries are meeting in New York that weekend to discuss exchange rate policy.

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Maxwell-proof pensions for all

In the aftermath of Robert Maxwell's death, there was general agreement that the recently floated Mirror Group Newspapers was the family's star asset and easily saleable if necessary. That assumption has crumbled to dust in the face of shocking revelations of the pillaging of MGN's pension fund assets. Later today the social services select committee is due to hear fresh submissions from hapless Mirror employees who face a grim and possibly fruitless fight to recover the assets that once appeared to guarantee them a reasonable retirement. The details will not make pleasant listening.

Currently, there are insufficient assets left to meet liabilities to either Mirror group employees contributing to pension funds or those who have left but have deferred pension rights. The size of this hole is still being evaluated, but without recovery of missing millions on a substantial scale, retirement prospects are bleak.

Prognostications for recovery are not good. Accountants tracking cash transferred from MGN's sister company, Maxwell Communication Corporation, have discovered that all was not as it first appeared. There are grave doubts that cash actually went to destinations recorded in the MCC books. Assets plundered from MGN pensioners may prove as tricky to trace. The MCC cash, it now emerges, went to multiple destinations overseas, including numerous shadowy brass plate companies in well-known tax havens.

Mirror employees have a duty to themselves and their dependants to seek recovery of their assets and are soon likely to take steps in that direction. First, they will examine any legal responsibility under the terms of the trust deed which MGN itself might have for making good the deficiency. The second line of attack would naturally be to see what responsibility, if any, can be established, might be borne by MGN's pension fund advisers.

These tasks will be by no means simple. The mess left by Robert Maxwell's cannibalisation of his own companies will keep lights burning in law firms for years to come. But already, two things emerge clearly. First, a swift conclusion to MGN's ownership is most unlikely. MGN is a strong cash generative business. But who would want to buy the pig in a poke called pension fund liabilities?

If the missing millions are not recoverable from third parties, whoever they may prove to be, either the work force and deferred pensioners will be scandalously disadvantaged or the Mirror group may be prevailed upon by its own employees to make good the shortfall in the fund from its own resources. Uncertainties over where and when the buck will eventually stop are enough to deter any prudent purchaser until the legal battles are ended. Depressingly, this may hamper any efforts Mirror staff make towards staging a management-led buyout. Borrowings would have to be considerable. Banks are unlikely to fund a buyout which assumed much responsibility for making up pension deficiencies, for this would seriously cut into the cash flow available to service buyout debt. On the other hand, the task would be easy if employees were to relinquish all claims on MGN for their lost assets. But this is asking too much of human flesh and blood.

The second obvious lesson is that pensions law reform must be afforded the same high priority that reform of the financial services legislation was given after a series of scandals in the late Seventies. It is true but not acceptable to say that the bulk of pension schemes are run honestly. A good test for such reforms is that they should make impossible a repeat of what Robert Maxwell did, even in the unlikely event that such a monster should appear again. One time is one time too many.

Not too late to cut interest rates for economic and electoral victory

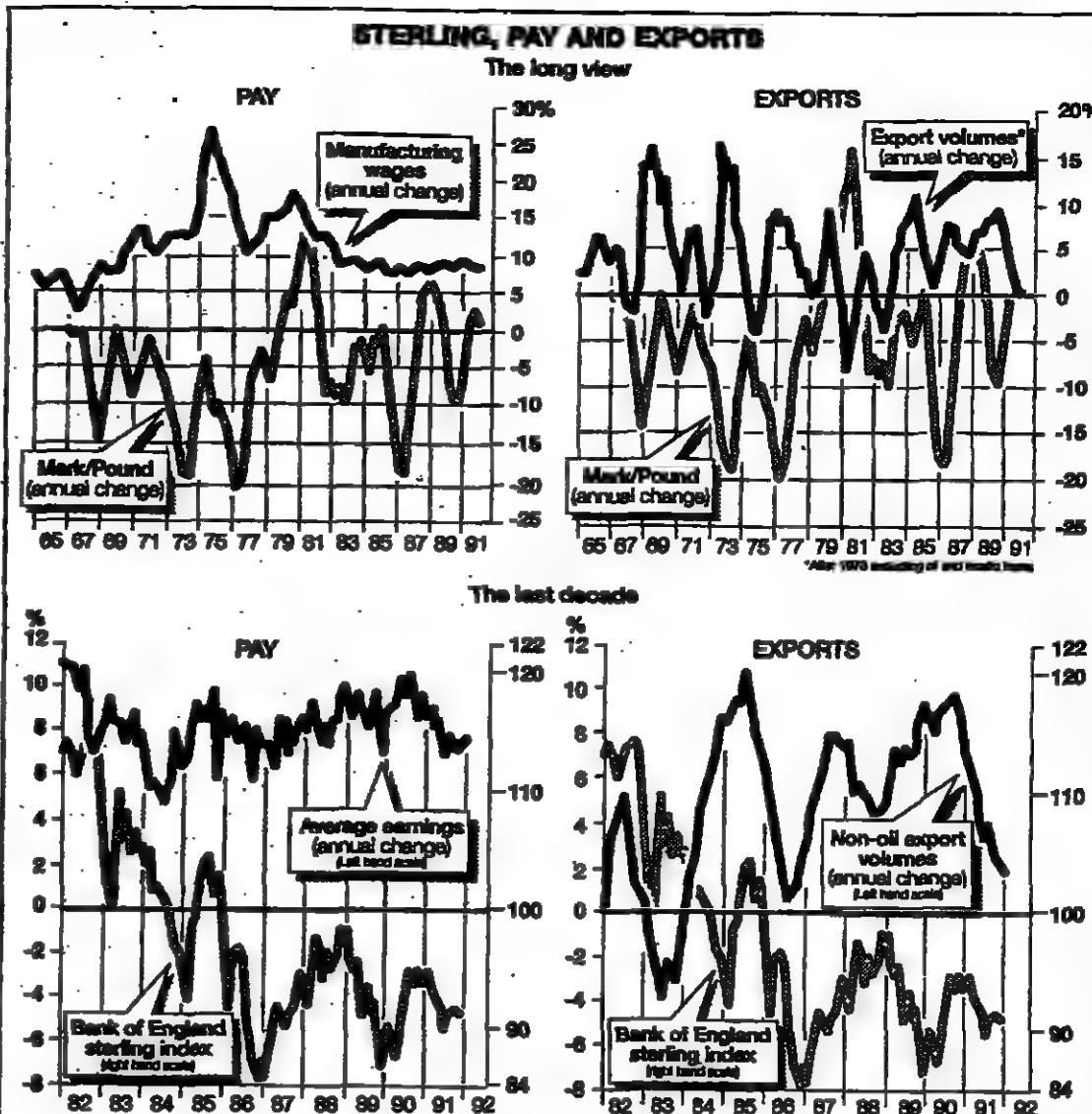
Anatole Kaletsky offers a free-market plan to fuel the economy and help the Chancellor avoid rejection by voters at the polls

Is it just intellectual paralysis or is there a death wish in the heart of the government? Britain is moving into its most important election campaign for 13 years, a campaign that will decide whether the Thatcher decade turns out to be a footnote in British history or the start of a new chapter. But as the Chancellor prepared the Budget that will determine the election's outcome, the Treasury, the CBI, the Institute of Directors and all the other Conservative lobbies are unanimous in their advice. There must be no "artificial" stimulus, admonish the businessmen and Treasury officials: the economy must crawl through the recession at its "natural" pace until the business cycle runs its pre-ordained course.

I disagree. This week and next, I shall present two Budget proposals that would guarantee a clear economic revival before July. If, as is almost certain, the idea goes to the Chancellor's dustbin, John Smith could always rummage them out when he moves into Downing Street on or before July 9.

Plan Two, next week, assumes that John Major's commitment to the ERM takes precedence over every other principle his party has espoused in the last 13 years. The government could easily poll the economy out of its hole if it embraced the continent's fiscal and industrial activism that complements the abandonment of monetary flexibility in the ERM. This is in fact, one of the reasons why Labour is so enthusiastic about ERM membership. But first, I shall assume that Mr Major wishes to stick to his conservative colours. Here, then, is a free-market plan for triggering economic recovery and winning an election by July 9.

The Chancellor announces on Budget day that the Bank of England has cut its money market dealing rate from 10.5 to 7.5 per cent. Bank base rates and mortgage rates move in line, falling by three percentage points. The cut in interest rates immediately revives the housing market and boosts retail spending. Simultaneously, the cheaper mortgage costs reduce headline inflation to under 3 per cent, ensuring that wage claims will fall in the 1992-3 pay round. To reinforce the disinflationary thrust, the Chancellor refrains from raising alcohol and petrol duties and tightens the thrust of fiscal policy by refraining from an income tax cut and failing to index personal allowances in line with inflation. The impact of such a Budget would depend on how the Chancellor presented the implications for sterling. The Budget mea-



sure would not be about devaluing sterling, but about cutting interest rates and letting the pound find its own level, with no arbitrary floors. If Labour then wished to argue that interest rates should be raised again, it could do so. For the public and businesses, the benefits of the new policy would be clear.

With the exchange rate determined by market forces, sterling would almost certainly overshoot downwards, just like the dollar. This would make Britain a highly attractive base for manufacturing and exporting to the increasingly competitive and consumption-oriented European economies such as Germany, Italy and France. More importantly, the new exchange rate policy would hold out the prospect of a degree of economic stability unknown in Britain since the management of sterling began to dominate economic policy making in the late Fifties. Almost every financial crisis in Britain's post-war history has been triggered by a "run on the pound". If the government were to accept that the exchange rate should be left to market forces, "emergency" interest rate hikes would automatically become a thing of the past. To the establishment, this is dangerous fantasy. "Devaluation of sterling

within the ERM would only push up interest rates," declares the CBI in its Budget submission — "by two percentage points". Sir Leon Brittan, the EC commissioner, chips in. A premature cut in interest rates would be "fools gold" if it undermined sterling, insists Mr Major, since devaluation inevitably sets off an inflationary wage-price spiral. However, the Chancellor ought to ask Treasury officials two questions:

What is the mechanism that would push interest rates up, rather than down if I decided to abandon the ERM band? And where is the evidence that a falling pound always aggravates inflation? The answer to the first question is revealing. A mechanism does exist that might push interest rates higher if sterling were devalued "within the ERM". But this is only true because of the proviso in inverted commas. The Treasury correctly maintains that no ERM country can hope for interest rates below Germany's. Investors will not hold a low-interest currency unless they expect it to rise in value against the mark, but no ERM currency has ever been revalued upwards against the mark. Therefore, it is impossible for Brit-

ain to have lower interest rates than Germany, QED.

But wait. Outside the ERM, there are plenty of countries with interest rates much lower than Germany's: not only the dollar, yen and Swiss franc, but also such notoriously "soft" currencies as the Australian, Canadian and New Zealand dollars. If Australia could cut interest rates from 17 to 7.5 per cent, why not Britain? This is where the ERM mechanism comes in.

Suppose the pound were moved from its present band to an equally arbitrary new one — say 10 per cent lower — within the ERM. Investors would demand the usual interest rate premium over the mark. If they failed to get it, the pound would fall quickly to the bottom of its new band. There would be another sterling crisis, requiring either a hike in interest rates or a second devaluation. But suppose the Chancellor simply cut interest rates to 7.5 per cent but refused to set a new floor for sterling. Investors, accustomed to earning 10 per cent plus on their sterling deposits, would obviously not like this at first and would drive down the pound. But eventually sterling would reach an "undervalued" level, from which some investors would expect it to rise. If British

interest rates were two points lower than German ones, the pound would in principle settle about 2 per cent below the level perceived by investors as a long-run equilibrium exchange rate against the mark.

The best economic studies of "fundamental equilibrium exchange rates" suggest that DM2.40 to the pound would be compatible with long-run full employment and a sustainable development of Britain's current and capital accounts. So if British interest rates were cut to 7.5 per cent, or two points below the German level, the pound might settle at about DM2.35. Allowing for some speculative overshooting, sterling might fall as far as DM2.25. This would imply a devaluation of 20 per cent, slightly less than the one that followed Sir Geoffrey Howe's recovery budget in 1981. In fact, the fall in the pound might be much smaller if the Treasury were right in its belief that sterling's equilibrium exchange rate is probably around its present exchange rate of DM2.85. At this point, the Treasury officials will give warning about the inflationary perils of letting investors have their way with sterling. But what is the evidence that a falling exchange rate leads to higher inflation?

Some economists fixed their predictive models to guarantee that devaluation led to higher wage growth and no rise in exports. But experience shows the alleged link between sterling and wages seems no longer to exist, if it ever did.

The charts show the relationship between sterling and wages was weak in the Sixties and Seventies and became non-existent from 1981 onwards — thanks largely to Mrs Thatcher's abandonment of incomes policies and her labour market reforms. By contrast, the link between the exchange rate and export growth is clear. Whenever the pound has risen, Britain's export growth has fallen. When the pound has fallen, competitiveness has improved and exports have grown.

If falls in the pound failed to unleash a wage-price spiral in the Eighties, why should they do so now? Given the high unemployment created by the recession and the continuing improvements in Britain's labour market and supply-side flexibility, a fall in sterling today should be even less inflationary.

Calls for much lower interest rates and a freely floating pound are denounced as defeatist. But the real defeatists are those who insist that the British economy is still too inflexible to respond to normal price signals acting through free foreign exchange markets. If Britain must suffer another decade of German-imposed deflation before it can share the benefits of low interest rates and market-determined exchange rates, then the 12 years of Thatcherism really were in vain. And the electorate should say so.

Next week: A Budget proposal for ERM enthusiasts.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

New mountain for Pountain?

RUMOURS are flying within the financial community at Canary Wharf that Christopher Pountain, top ranked insurance analyst at Morgan Stanley, is set to make a spectacular exit. Pountain, if the whispers are accurate, is ready to join Commercial Union to help plan the insurance group's worldwide strategy — a position that would command a six-figure salary. Pountain, aged 38, is already used to large financial packages, having been wooed away from County NatWest's commodities team in 1989 for an equally huge sum. He should have no problem adjusting to the CU culture, since he began his career at Scottish Widows, qualifying as an actuary, before going on to join Wood Mackenzie, as it then was, in 1979. If the City Diary's sources are proved correct, the deal could be concluded before the end of the month. Meanwhile, Morgan Stanley remains locked in conflict with Olympia & York, the property developer, over ownership of its Docklands offices.

Surprise, surprise

IN KEEPING with its true-blue Tory tradition, the City will vote overwhelmingly in favour of the Conservatives in the general election, according to a poll by Stephens Associates, a firm of financial headhunters. Of nearly 600 chairmen, chief executives and department heads in the financial community questioned in the poll, 81 per cent said they would vote Tory if an election were held tomorrow.

Only 6 per cent were in favour of a Labour government, and 9 per cent would support the Liberal Democrats. However, less than half of them expect the Conservatives to emerge from the general election with a clear majority — an indication, perhaps, that even the City's loyal support may not be enough. As an interesting aside, 65 per cent of respondents thought a single European currency would benefit the United Kingdom, while more than half are against a referendum on monetary and political union.

Main attraction

JOHN Ritblat, the dapper chairman of British Land, has thrown his weight behind one of the more unusual charity ventures of the new year. He has given his blessing to a "share race" in aid of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, with the aim of raising up to £20,000 to buy a much needed magnet for its electron spin resonance spectrometer for tumour research. Entrants



Ritblat: race ace

have to pick five shares from a list of 54 and stand to win £1,000 if their portfolio tops the bill over a year. "The idea was tried two years ago on a small basis, and we decided to take it forward," says Howard Shore, managing director of Shore Capital Stockbrokers, an associate company of British Land and sponsor to the race. The choice of shares listed in a publicity brochure includes Philip Green's Amber Day, managed by bear riders of late, and the curiously named Golf Fields of South Africa.

QUESTION: How many public relations executives does it take to design a four-page newsletter? **Answer:** 14, according to the Institute of Public Relations' City and Financial Group. The group's annual review includes a photograph of Geoffrey Kelly of BZW, Simon Lewis of SG Warburg and 12 associates discussing "alternative designs" for the masterpiece.

Kafka's trials

BARELY six months after leaving the City for a career in Manchester, Paul Kafka, former head of corporate affairs at Security Pacific Hoare Govett, as it then was, and most recently publicity head for Norweb, the privatised electricity company, just cannot stay away from the Square Mile. He is now joining Nomura, the Japanese securities house, in the wake of the recent shake-up in the firm's public relations department. "I am delighted to be back in the City," says Kafka, aged 35, who has been commuting between Manchester

and his home in Richmond, south-west London, since taking up the job with Norweb in June. He admits that the travelling was taking its toll. "It didn't do much for my family life," he says. Kafka joins Nomura on February 3, as executive director (corporate communications). He will be working alongside Keith Clarke, who stepped down as head of corporate affairs just after Christmas, but remains a consultant.

BEALE Dobie, a firm that auctions used insurance policies, hence improving on their surrender values, has issued a free telephone number — freephone surrender.

Cold comfort

PERHAPS it was the turkey — and not the goose — that laid the golden egg. Whatever, the writing was certainly on the wall when staff at Berry Magicoal, the name behind the flickering, electric coal-effect fires that grace many British drawing rooms, lost out on their annual Christmas gift. Now, Unidare Environmental, the Dublin maker of electrical heaters that bought the company in December, has told the 190 staff there that they are to lose their jobs. The workers, who had to go without their annual gift of a Christmas turkey for the first time in ten years last month, will be made redundant on Good Friday, when their factory at Comanahy, Derbyshire, closes its doors. Production is being transferred to Unidare's factory at Portadown, Northern Ireland.

JON ASHWORTH

Insolvency assets should be advertised for sale to close loophole

From Mr T. J. Martin-Wright
Sir, The rise in company failures is being used as a barometer of the commercial health of the UK, or lack of health as the case appears to be.

What the figures do not portray is an increasingly growing trend for the owners of struggling companies to use the current loopholes in insolvency legislation to shed debts and restructure the business balance sheet.

In 1991, my company suffered bad debts from seven insolvencies. In six out of these seven insolvencies, before the creditors had even been notified, a deal was struck, between the previous owners of the business, and the liquidator, the assets being bought from the liquidator at 5p to 10p in the pound.

The six insolvencies left, in total, £4.1 million of unpaid creditors, realising £100,000 of "buyback" funds to cover the liquidators' and solicitors' fees, and placed back in the hands of the previous owners £1.25 million of stock and assets (per statement of af-

fairs valuation prepared by the previous owners themselves).

I suggest a method of reducing insolvencies would be to force the insolvency practitioners to advertise the assets for sale in the press, then it would at least allow some of the unfortunate creditors the opportunity to buy their own goods back at 5p in the pound.

More importantly, this public auction would close this loophole of debt-shedding, as the surety of remaining in business following a

cozy deal with the insolvency practitioner would be removed, and the true worth of the assets realised for the benefit of all the creditors.

If Mr Major wishes to cut company insolvencies, a swift amendment to the law on sale of insolvent companies' assets will do more wonders than a 2 per cent cut in interest rates.

Yours faithfully,
T. J. MARTIN-WRIGHT
Managing Director,
A1 Security & Electrical Ltd,
16 Brickfields,
Huyton Trading Estate,
Merseyside.

the initial step because their profession is hopelessly fragmented. Every political party says it aims to reverse Britain's industrial decline. I will believe that when a government gets engineers in key positions in industry and in the machinery of the state and creates a Cabinet post equal in status to the Chancellor and the Home and Foreign Secretaries, to oversee Britain's engineering renaissance.

Yours faithfully,
ROWLAND MORGAN,
Chartered Engineer,
University of Bristol
Bristol.

The continuing mutual indifference between engineers and politicians is the greatest obstacle to any manufacturing-based recovery. Engineers are incapable of taking

THE TIMES

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Spotlight turned on Lonrho's payout

THURSDAY is long awaited by followers of Lonrho. Tiny Rowland's international trading conglomerate, to see whether the dividend is held. Lonrho's dividend has not been cut since 1981 and Mr Rowland is proud of his progressive dividend record, so most analysts feel a cut is unlikely. However, the shares have been unsteady, affected by debt and dividend fears as well as lower prices for precious metals, so the market is partly discounting a cut.

Charles Pick, of Nomura Research Institute, expects final pre-tax profits to decline to £250 million (£273 million), with earnings per share of 20.7p (23.6p). Market forecasts range from £250 million to £260 million. Mr Pick expects a maintained final dividend of 8p, making 16p, with a first interim dividend of 3p for 1991-2.

TODAY

All divisions at Intereare Group, the fast-growing healthcare products distributor, are thought to have traded strongly. Final pre-tax profits, boosted by acquisition, are expected to nearly

double to about £1.4 million (£504,000), according to Andrew Holland at Barclays de Zoete Wedd. Earnings per share of 6.8p (4.1p) and a dividend of 2p (1.25p) are predicted.

Interviews: Blyvooruitzicht Gold Mining (quarterly), DAB Investments (quarterly), East Rand Proprietary Mines (quarterly), Harmony Gold Mining (quarterly), Resort Hotels, Flamingo Group, Wharfedale, Wideny.

Economic statistics: Retail sales (December - provisional).

TOMORROW

Budgets, the food retailer, is expected to report interim pre-tax profits of £1.8 million (£505,000), according to County NatWest. Attention will focus on trading news because of stiff competition from the big multiples after the price war and Sunday trading.

Interviews: Applied Holographics, Bank of Nova Scotia, B&E Hotels, B&E Group, Budgens, Cantors, Clark (Matthew), Dasein Africa, Jure Hotel Group, Olin Convertible Trust, Rejoice Shop, Trevian Holdings, Wood (John D) & Co.

Financial: Central Motor Auctions, London & Clydesdale Holdings. Economic statistics: Major British banking groups' monthly statement (December), pro-

visional estimates of monetary aggregates (December).

WEDNESDAY

A sharp downturn in commercial construction activity in Britain and tough trading conditions in America are expected to lead to a decline in profits at Newman Tonks Group, the Birmingham supplier of building products. Michel Teager, at Albert E Sharp, expects full-year pre-tax profits to slide to £14.8 million (£23.2 million). Mr Teager forecasts a fall in earnings per share to 9.6p (15.2p), although a maintained dividend of 9.3p is expected.

Interviews: Consolidated Murchison (quarterly), Esbury Gold Mining (quarterly), Joel (H) Gold Mining (quarterly), McKay Securities, Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Co, Witwatersrand (quarterly), Western Areas Gold Mining (quarterly).

Financial: Newman Tonks Group, RCO Holdings. Economic statistics: British Chambers of Commerce quarterly economic survey (fourth quarter 1991); index of production and construction for Wales (third quarter); index of output of the production industries (November).

THURSDAY

Macarthy, the pharmaceutical

retailer and manufacturer where Ian Parsons is chief executive, is expected to announce final pre-tax profits of £5 million (£4.61 million), according to Hoare Govett. Market forecasts range between £4.8 million and £5.3 million. Earnings per share of 12.8p (11.6p) are forecast, with a maintained dividend of 12.5p. Macarthy is the subject of bids from Uni-Chem, Britain's largest pharmaceutical wholesaler, and Lloyds Chemists. Both bids have been referred to the monopolies commission.

Interviews: Cook (DC) Holdings, Labovna Platinum Mines, Milne Group, Park Food Group, Polyesters (Platinum), Proteas International, Ransom (William) & Son, Rustenburg Platinum Holdings.

Financial: City of Oxford Investment Trust, Contra-Cyclical Investment Trust, Danmors Electrical, Derby Trust, Geared Income Investment Trust, Hill & Smith Holdings, Lonsdale, Macarthy. Economic statistics: None announced.

FRIDAY

Interviews: Investors Capital Trust (first quarter), Osprey Communications. Financial: Cardiff Property, City Site Estates. Economic statistics: None announced.

PHILIP PANGALOS



Rise predicted: Ian Parsons of Macarthy

CAPITAL MARKETS

Bonds to benefit at expense of equities

NEW issue activity in the sterling bond markets grew by 143 per cent to £29.9 billion in 1991 and further growth can be expected this year, despite economic and political uncertainties.

According to Baring Brothers' Sterling Debt Market Review, a significant shift from equities to bonds among domestic investors is likely this year as the economic constraints of ERM membership continue to bear down on inflation. Offshore money will, however, remain an important factor, says Barings, not least because of the heavy volume of Eurosterling maturities due in 1992.

British issuers have been quick to return to the bond markets after Christmas, with the sterling sector still proving popular despite pressure on the pound and the political storm clouds gathering over the currency. Two tightly priced Eurosterling issues have already seen the light of day, both led by Credit Suisse First Boston.

In the first British corporate Eurosterling deal this year, Southern Electric added to the growing pool of sterling

utility debt with a ten-year, £150 million fixed rate issue offering a spread of 70 basis points over the 2002 gilt. Tesco's £200 million bond, also a ten-year deal, was seen as slightly more aggressively priced at an 80 basis point spread. Both firms stressed the opportunity to lock into attractively priced ten-year money at a time of economic and political uncertainty.

While there are always treasurers willing to take long-term funds on to the balance sheet when rates fall to about 10 per cent, other treasurers may take a more cautious approach and hold back in the hope of further rate cuts. However, recent history suggests 10 per cent money will prove good value. In the case of the first pair of issuers, major refinancing requirements in the not too distant future probably concentrated the respective treasurers' minds on the favourable market conditions. Southern Electric has a substantial slice of government debt to repay next year, while Tesco has a multi-option facility to replace at the end of this year.

JONATHAN PRYNN

Political guessing game will not spoil bond party

Continuing recession, falling inflation, lower wage settlements, slowing monetary growth — in many ways the economic background to the gilt-edged market could not be better.

The inflation squeeze was best illustrated by last week's producer output price data. The underlying rate of increase fell on some measures, to a near 20-year low. Despite the small rise in retail price inflation later in the week, there is no doubt inflation pressures are easing.

So far, the fall in inflation can be attributed almost entirely to the recession but it promises to be more durable than that suggests. The exchange-rate mechanism should ensure that the inflation gap achieved in recession conditions can be locked in for the longer term. At last there is a credible route to sustainably lower inflation — something we have not had in Britain for some time.

The problem for gilt investors is how to weigh this bullish inflation background against the obvious problems facing the market: official supply of stock and politics. The other implications of an economy expected to be flat in the first half are that the government's borrowing requirement will continue to grow and the election will take place against a backdrop of no recovery and rising unemployment.

It is easy to overstate the extent to which political risk will upset the gilt market. Recession and a pronounced change in policy have caused the PSBR to reach levels many thought would be seen only under a Labour government. Thus a Labour government's freedom of fiscal manoeuvre would be limited. The shadow treasury team has emphasised the extent to which spending pledges have been matched by intended tax increases, although this discipline is coming under strain as electioneering starts in earnest. Nevertheless, the main PSBR risk of a Labour government might simply be the early ending of the privatisation programme.

If the Conservatives are now looking more like Labour in terms of fiscal policy, Labour has shifted towards the Conservative approach on monetary policy.

All the leading parties accept the ERM orthodoxy, with a universal commitment to a move to narrow bands at existing central rates. Devaluation — or even realignment — is a dirty word. Fears about the possibility of an immediate post-election devaluation persist, but recent exchange rate behaviour implies they are not widespread. There has not been a sterling crisis and there will not be one as long as confidence that devaluation is not a possibility holds. Sterling firmly at the bottom of the ERM league is not necessarily a problem — someone has to be at the bottom — and as time passes and interest

rate sentiment in Europe improves, a British base rate rise looks less likely. Indeed, a spring base rate cut is still a possibility.

Overseas perceptions of sterling and political risk have clearly changed. That exchange rate policy is no longer a political football is generally appreciated and Labour's commitment to the ERM is taken seriously. The foreign market might demand a small and short-lived increase in base rates if Labour wins, if only as confirmation of that commitment, but there is no reason to think a sterling crisis will happen.

Supply of stock could pose a more serious and certainly a longer-term problem. The impact of recession upon government finances has been obvious and if the ERM proves to constrain economic growth in the medium term, notions of a carefully-adjusted balanced budget could be rather academic. Perhaps more important, however, has been the relaxation in fiscal policy.

Public spending policy began to shift in 1990 and has been moving ever since. The PSBR could reach £24 billion in 1992-3 from an estimated £11 billion this year. Of that prospective doubling, about half can be attributed to a discretionary easing of economic policy, including tax cuts in the Budget, which appear to be firmly on the agenda despite the borrowing trend.

An expected net borrowing requirement of 4 per cent of GDP is not especially large historically or internationally, and it can be argued that, after the election, £29 billion of gross gilt sales could be absorbed in a bullish economic environment. To some extent the problem lies in the gilt market's recent history and the legacy of the fiscal surpluses of the late 1980s that required the Bank of England to buy large quantities of outstanding gilts. This caused a drop in the institutions' gilt holdings, a switch into other assets and a greater inversion of the yield curve.

There needs to be some reversal of these trends if the Bank is to meet its funding objectives. Domestic investors must be persuaded to shift back into gilts especially if, as seems likely, the Bank funds further out along the yield curve. A 30-year issue would need good domestic support to be successful. The answer might lie in the shape of the yield curve. Even against the good inflation background, it may not prove possible to sell the anticipated greater supply with a downward sloping yield curve at the longer end of the market.

The result is expected to be a flatter yield curve, but one that has made a significant shift down as well. Neither politics nor supply will be enough to outweigh the especially good economic background to the gilt market this year.

JOHN SHEPHERD
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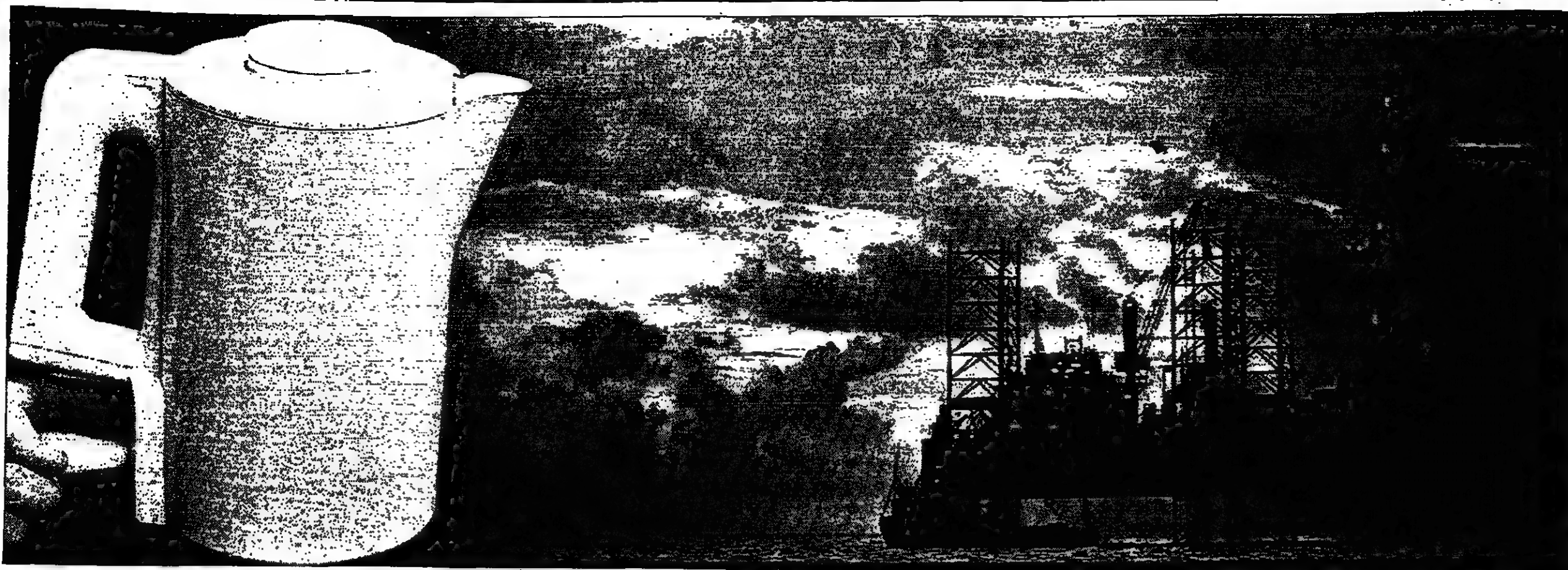
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ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Modern marvels: more efficient kettles and vacuum cleaners would eliminate 11 million tonnes of carbon dioxide and save £millions every year. The annual value of oil from the North Sea could be saved by more efficiency.

Energy campaign reaches boiling point

David Young reports on how Britain can save £10bn a year, equal to North Sea oil income

The North Sea oil industry produces £10 billion worth of wealth a year. This large amount often raises eyebrows. Yet hardly anybody until now has pointed out that £10 billion is precisely the amount that Britain could save in a year if everybody in industry and in the home adopted the best available energy-saving measures.

John Wakeham, the energy secretary, now quotes these statistics when he discusses energy conservation and when he is putting pressure on businessmen to sign a declaration agreeing to energy efficiency programmes.

Nearly two-thirds of Britain's largest companies had no formal energy policy when he started his campaign. Many have now accepted the need to participate in the scheme and to publish a corporate policy on energy efficiency and make a board member responsible for implementation. Companies that have signed up include ICI, Nissan, BT, Midland

Bank and British Gas.

Mr Wakeham says: "In this country, which already has a better record than most in improving its energy efficiency in recent years, it is estimated that there remains scope to save up to a fifth of our energy consumption. We know that people react very positively to the idea of reducing energy consumption once they understand how it can benefit the environment."

The energy department is also letting consumers know how efficient or inefficient their appliances are. Research has shown that when the running costs of any product are given in an easily understood format people will buy.

The savings that can be made by using more efficient domestic appliances are considerable. A recent study by the March Consulting

Group for the energy department showed that domestic appliances account for 21 per cent of the electricity used in the UK. The power needed to boil the nation's kettles and vacuum its carpets produces an annual 11 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, the main gas contributing towards global warming.

Mr Wakeham's staff now estimates that energy-saving of 40 per cent could be achieved in Britain if the whole nation's domestic appliances were replaced with the most efficient models available.

In addition, if the most up-to-date technology was incorporated in new models, savings could be 60 per cent or £1.5 billion to UK electricity consumers.

Realising that such enormous savings can be made, the department and the European Community have pressed ahead with

energy labelling schemes. They will give customers the energy efficiency rating of an appliance and allow them to compare it with competing models.

Several countries are introducing programmes. The department's Energy Efficiency Office scheme is at an advanced stage and the office is holding consultations on a voluntary system to introduce ahead of an EC directive.

Many of the big electricity companies are already cooperating in their retail outlets and other retailers will soon follow. Initially the scheme will apply only to refrigerators and freezers, but Mr Wakeham sees this as a "useful interim measure" until the EC directive comes into force.

However, the Association for the Conservation of Energy says energy labelling will have little effect on

its own unless manufacturers also meet tougher efficiency standards and targets. The association says: "Over-reliance on the power of the market mechanism alone to encourage environmentally responsible purchasing fails to recognise that the average consumer simply does not know that such benefits are available. Lack of knowledge and incentive on the part of sales personnel is compounded by the obscurity and technicality of the product information provided by manufacturers."

In Germany, on the government's initiative, the domestic appliance industry adopted energy labelling and a voluntary programme for efficiency targets for goods. Improvement targets ranged from 3 to 5 per cent for electric cookers, 7 to 10 per cent for washing machines,

10 to 15 per cent for dishwashers and 15 to 20 per cent for refrigerators and freezers. All targets were exceeded by a big margin.

When mandatory labelling was introduced in New South Wales, Australia, there was an average improvement of 15 per cent in the efficiency of refrigerators, and models with poor energy ratings disappeared from shops.

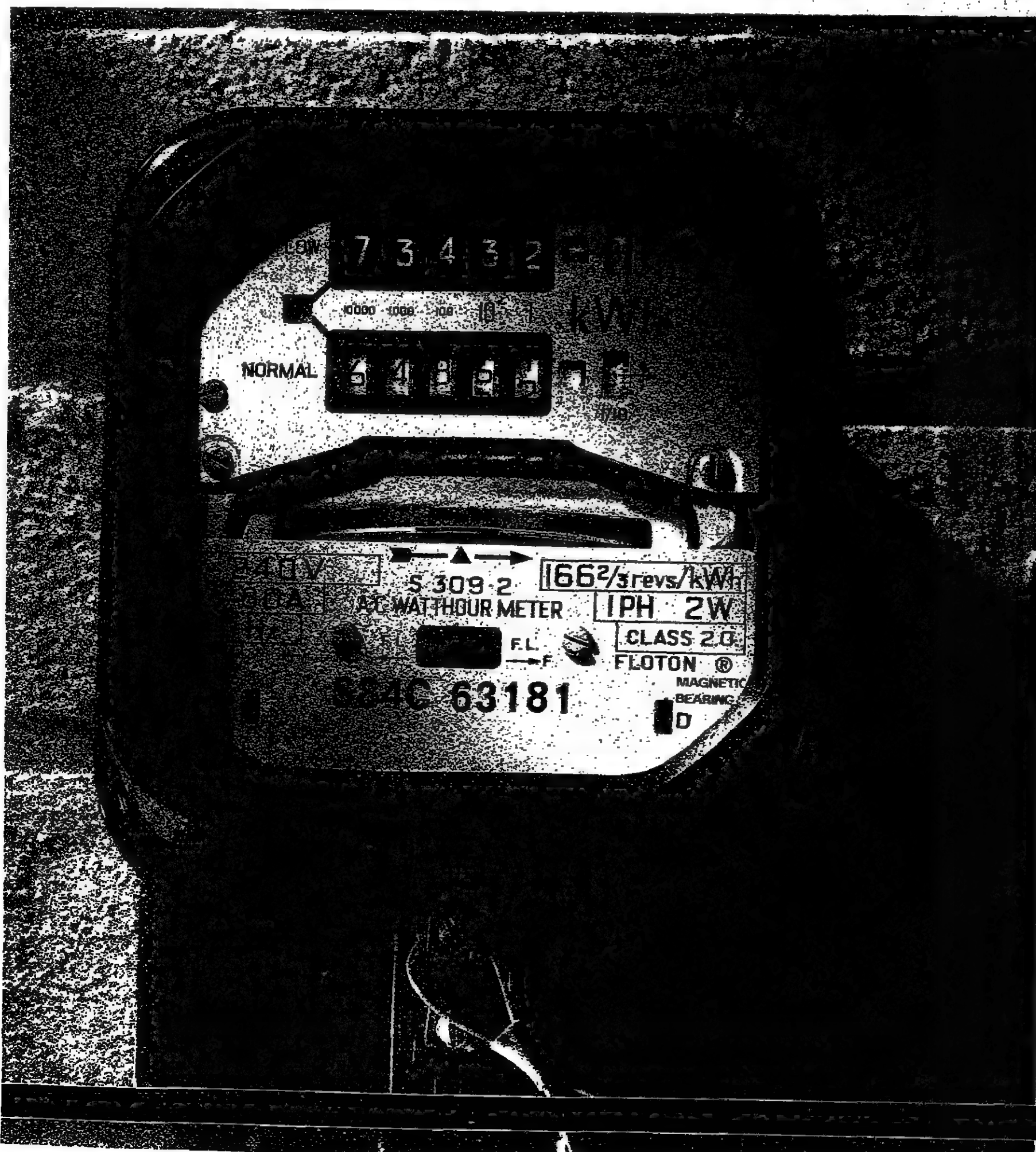
In the EC, there have been years of discussion on a framework directive for energy labelling. In 1986 the Council of Ministers set energy improvement objectives of 20 per cent by 1995. The EC soon realised, however, that these targets were unlikely to be attained unless more stringent measures were taken. Domestic electricity demand in the EC rose by 35 per cent between 1982 and 1989. Initially, EC labelling will cover

refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, driers, dishwashers, ovens, water heating and lights.

An EC spokesman says: "Surveys have shown that energy consumption of domestic appliances varies widely and that there is no particular relationship between energy efficiency and price or performance."

The proposed EC scheme would also provide a 'leader' with more complete information, which a customer could take away to study at home and compare with rival products. This leader is also likely to include the environmental consequences of using the product.

Britain's Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances (Amadea) and its West European counterparts have opposed the EC proposals. Amadea says: "The industry has always believed that market forces provide a more effective and quicker mechanism for reducing energy consumption than energy labelling directives."



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THE TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 20 1992

FOCUS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY 25

Tax plan for polluters

An 'Earth summit' in June will discuss action to save energy, Pearce Wright reports

The first global environmental treaty, a global climate agreement to cut worldwide energy consumption and clean up the planet — will be proposed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro this June.

Known as the "Earth summit", the gathering will be asked to consider limiting discharges of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, which are generated in burning fossil fuels and pose a long-term climatic threat because of their ability to trap heat. An increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere would cause global warming.

Such measures would lead to a tax on carbon dioxide, which would penalise the discharges into the atmosphere of carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides by industries and transport systems of the industrialised countries.

Other human activities, including the release of carbon dioxide by deforestation and the greenhouse effect of chlorofluorocarbon aerosol propellants, could contribute to the global warming problem. But more than half the greenhouse gases come from combustion of coal, oil and gas in power stations, industrial boilers, homes, road vehicles and aircraft.

hence the attraction of a carbon tax. Without its atmospheric blanket of gases, the mean surface temperature of the planet would be 30 degrees lower than at present. Although carbon dioxide comprises only 0.03 per cent of the atmosphere, it makes the earth a habitable planet rather than a frozen waste. Carbon dioxide is well mixed throughout the atmosphere but regional differences in concentration are thought to be caused in the northern hemisphere by greater economic activity.

Although governments around the

GLOBAL WARMING

Relative contributions of gases to global warming

	%
Carbon dioxide	61
Methane	20
Chlorofluorocarbons	9
Nitrous oxide	4
Ozone	4
Others	2

From Director's Guide to Energy Management

world are unlikely to accept a carbon tax, the European Commission will press ahead with a levy for EC countries to encourage the development of more environmentally friendly sources and uses of energy.

A global agreement to control man-made discharges of greenhouse gases would be the ultimate form of energy conservation. For most people in Britain, this would mean insulating the loft, installing double glazing and switching to a car with a diesel or small-capacity engine.

Attitudes towards the development of energy supplies and the application of technology have been transformed since the 1960s. Complacency about energy supplies was shattered by the 1973 Arab oil embargo and five-fold rise in price. Energy management became a high priority, but conservation was translated into a matter of more efficient housekeeping rather than environmental awareness.

In 1990, an assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change of the threat of global warming revealed a consensus among scientists that global tem-

peratures might rise in the long term. But there is no agreement on whether the change within the next 50 years will modify the climate significantly. So the June summit must agree on proposals to mitigate a risk that is difficult to define precisely.

In the view of Andrew Warren, of the Association for the Conservation of Energy, "energy is still used so carelessly and wastefully that improvements in the efficiency of its use is the easiest and cheapest way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions".

In general, that conviction is shared by Carlo Ripa di Meana and Antonio Cardoso e Cunha, the European Commission's environmental and energy commissioners, as well as government ministers in Britain, who believe that £10 billion a year could be cut from the national fuel bill by exploiting existing technologies.

No detailed programme of action has been issued, but the British government is committed to stabilising carbon dioxide emissions at the 1990 level by the year 2005.

The EC commissioners have gone further. They favour stabilising discharges of carbon dioxide at 1990 levels by the year 2000 and plan a carbon tax on fossil fuels.

Will Nissan 'sunny' see the light?

Increasing pollution levels and the need to conserve dwindling resources mean that manufacturers and governments will soon have to find more energy-efficient ways of powering the millions of cars in demand in every country.

In California, for instance, pollution legislation will force manufacturers to sell electric cars by 1998.

Yutaka Kume, the chairman of Nissan, says: "The electric car is the future and will be needed soon. The petrol engine will be with us for some time and can be improved. But this will be an exciting decade for discovering new technologies as efficient and versatile as the petrol engine."

Nissan is pioneering an acceptable electric car offering a range of 60 miles of city driving. The car uses nickel cadmium batteries, which weigh just 400lbs, and take just 15 minutes to recharge.

The car of the future could run on batteries and solar power.

Kevin Eason investigates



Shape of things to come? BMW's electric E2 car

Solar cells on the roof augment the battery power and energy is also recovered from the braking system for recharging.

Mr Yutaka admits that Nissan's prototype car, the FEV, is far from ideal, but any future production model could spell good news for Britain.

Last week Nissan announced a fresh £200 million injection of investment at its car plant at Washington, Tyne and Wear, which will double production and could make the Japanese company

Britain's third largest motor manufacturer after Ford and Rover.

Productivity at Nissan's Washington plant is the highest in the European industry, according to a study by analysts at Nikko Europe. Output per employee at Washington will be 75 cars this year, compared with 59 per employee at Nissan in Japan.

The internal combustion engine will remain the primary power pack for most motor cars into the next century but with more emphasis on economy.

However, manufacturers admit that they are near the limits of development with the petrol engine, prompting the search for new power sources which can offer the same performance, range and versatility as petrol power.

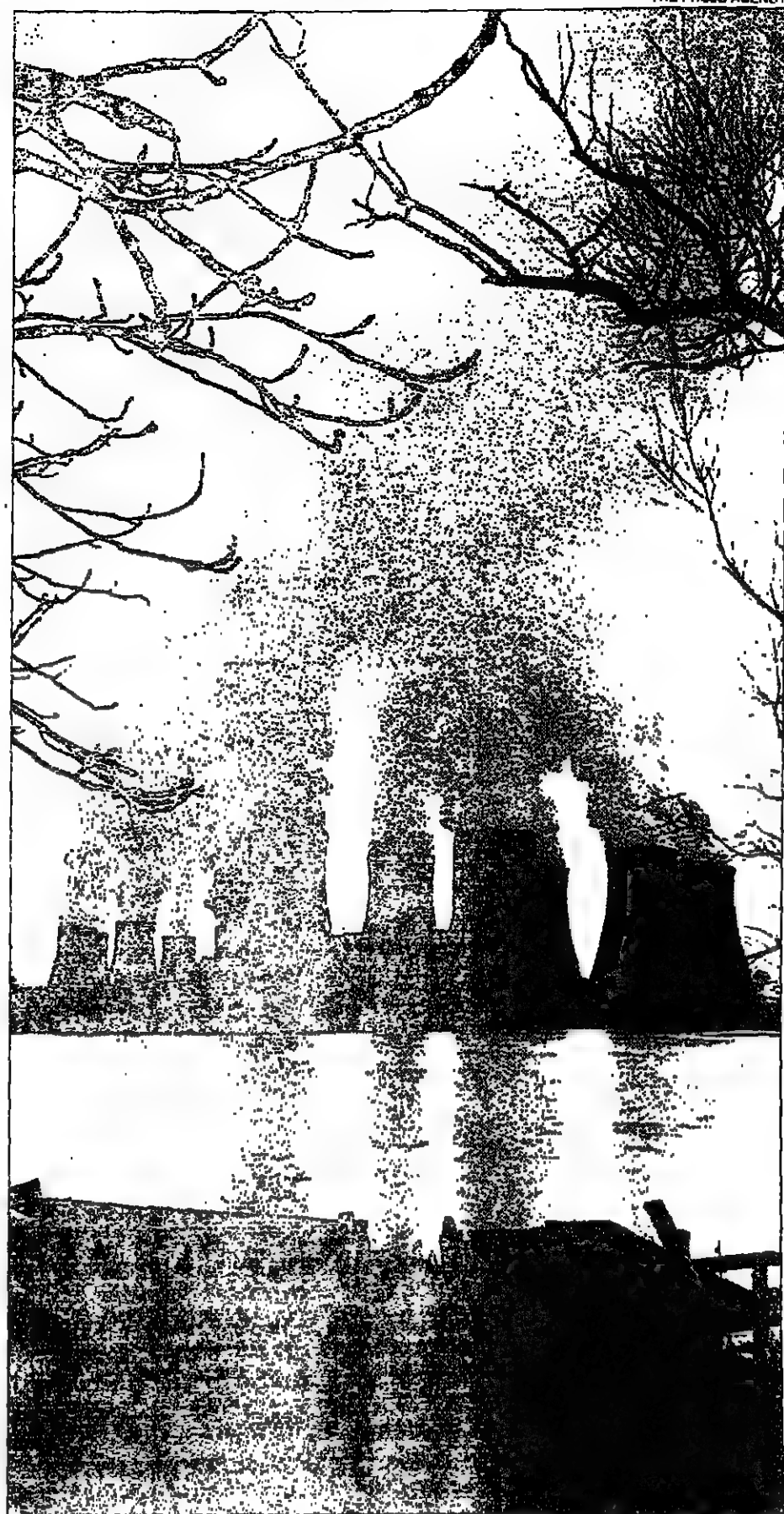
Electric cars are quiet and clean, but the battery technology has been in a time warp. Until Nissan's breakthrough, electric cars needed batteries weighing as much as half a tonne — about the weight of a Mini — to achieve a much reduced performance

and a range averaging about 100 miles on one charge. By contrast, most petrol cars can cover 300 miles on a full tank of fuel.

Studies by Nissan show that energy stored in a 110lb lead-acid battery offers a range of eight miles. A car with 110lb of gasoline offers more than 600 miles.

BMW's latest concept car, the E2, shown at the Detroit Motor Show this month, may also be the shape of things to come. The Mini-size car weighs about a tonne and has a maximum range of 267 miles. The top speed is 75 mph, but the quicker the car is driven the shorter the range, and recharging the batteries can take up to eight hours.

Nissan, however, has exchanged the traditional desire for long range for easy recharging. The result is a car that accelerates like a petrol-powered vehicle and has a top speed of just over 80mph.



Full steam ahead: Drax power station, Yorkshire, is fitting anti-pollution equipment

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Economy begins at home

Pearce Wright examines efforts to cut back waste in the home and in small businesses

The latest government-backed energy efficiency drive includes campaigns to obtain large savings of fuel consumption in homes and by small businesses. Spending for that purpose by the Energy Efficiency Office will increase this year by 40 per cent to 59 million and in the subsequent two years to £70 million and £75 million. Studies for the energy department show, in principle, how more efficient technology and better housekeeping could cut industry's energy bill by 20 per cent by the year, while still allowing for economic growth. But investigations also identify the barriers to improvement. Energy-saving campaigns go beyond mere exhortation: 40 years of history show that without some intervention energy efficiency products tend to be slow to infiltrate their markets.

In the domestic field, loft and tank insulation have reached 90 per cent of homes, but took 30 years to do so, even with the help of government grants. Cavity wall insulation and a relatively new generation of technologies, such as condensing boilers and long-life low-energy light bulbs have barely scratched the surface of their potential markets.

On present demand and without any stimulus, cavity wall insulation is expected to take another 50 years to grow from the present 20 per cent penetration of the market to 70 per cent. Condensing boilers are expected to take 150 years and low-energy lights 220 years to reach a 20 per cent take-up.

The most striking example of promoting energy-efficient lighting through market intervention comes from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company in the United States. Under pressure from an influential group of environmentalists, the Californian power utility has adopted a formidable strategy which, in effect, rewards consumers for saving energy. Among an array of measures, the power company bought 500,000 energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs and made them available at a discount for its customers.

In the UK, analyses by the government's Energy Technology Support Unit at Harwell, Oxfordshire, and the Building Research Establishment's

energy conservation support unit at Watford, Hertfordshire, conclude that the reduction possible in industry's energy bill by the end of the decade could be repeated in the domestic, commercial and public sectors. The Energy Efficiency Office identifies three barriers to progress.

First, consumers lack the information to appreciate the value of energy efficiency and to judge the price of energy.

Second, in general, investment in energy efficiency has a low priority. Investors appear to require higher rates of return from investment in energy efficiency than in energy supply. When energy-saving, but more expensive, refrigerators were introduced in the US more than ten years ago, people wanted savings of 50 per cent on consumption before they would buy. Poor people and small businesses give low priority to energy efficiency.

Third, there are a number of market distortions such as the failure of energy prices to reflect full environ-

mental costs. Similarly, VAT is levied on energy-efficient measures but not on domestic energy supplies.

The Energy Efficiency Office has developed an energy management scheme for companies employing fewer than 500 people. On the domestic side, a study by Alan Hedges called "Attitudes to Energy Conservation" found that most householders are unaware that the energy they use is a significant contributor to global warming, and are willing to reduce consumption.

Attempting to stimulate wider action, the government's conservation campaign includes an energy efficiency labelling scheme for refrigerators and freezers. The scheme, which has the co-operation of the two organisations pioneering home energy labelling in the UK, the National Energy Foundation and MVM-Starpoint, rates appliances on a ten-point scale. The higher the score the more energy-efficient the appliance. Other goods such as washing machines and dishwashers will soon also be similarly rated. The scheme could encourage energy savings of more than £1,500 million a year.



Water power: homes in Milton Keynes may use power generated from a nearby lake

Project draws on lake power

A PROJECT that would involve taking energy from a lake to heat up to 50 homes is being studied by officials at the National Energy Foundation (NEF), a charity based in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

The scheme is being piloted on the Energy Park, a 300-acre site in the Shenley Lodge and Knowhill area of Milton Keynes. The aim is to demonstrate energy-efficiency technologies and systems by using heat pumps and heat exchangers to collect energy from the nearby Lake Fozzard.

The energy would be transferred to water circulating as part of a district heating scheme and would supplement that provided by a central combined heat and power generator and off-peak electricity supplied by the national grid.

Dr Neil Cutland, of the foundation, a body that has grown out of the Milton Keynes Development Corporation, says studies indicated that the project would not adversely affect the lake's ecology and wildlife.

The project would lower the temperature only by about half a degree, which would alter its temperature to that of a comparable lake in Lincolnshire or Dunstable, a town on the same latitude as Milton Keynes but about 100m higher.

The project highlights one of the more unusual methods being studied to help the nation cut its energy bill and so reduce the emissions of the gases linked with global warming and acid rain.

One of the main thrusts of government policy has been to support energy efficiency audit schemes that make homeowners aware of energy-efficient design improvements.

Under a scheme run by the NEF, called the National Home Energy Rating system, homeowners pay assessors to measure a house's energy efficiency. The assessment scores the property

Assessments include insulation for roofs, walls and floors, and better heating

from one to ten. The average house in Britain will score about four, which compares with a Scandinavian average of about nine.

The scheme targets not only areas such as insulation for roofs, walls and floors, and better heating systems including boilers, radiators and thermostats but also the efficiency of electrical devices such as lights.

Starpoint, a commercial venture based in Bristol, gives homes a star rating. The government's Building Research Establishment at Watford, Hertfordshire, also has an environmental assessment method initiative (BREEAM).

Starpoint's system is less sophisticated but cheaper than the NEF scheme. The Building Research Establishment's initiative covers a broader environmental remit, assessing not only energy efficiency but such areas as the use of environmentally friendly materials in the building's construction.

The problem with these schemes is that, if they are to have any real impact on the environment, people need to invest money in the improvements identified by assessors.

A recent survey of 94 householders by the environment department found that most of them believed they would eventually move and that paying for features such as insulation would give the house much less of a selling point than a more visually obvious one such as a fitted kitchen.

The government does have a scheme to pay for insulation but this covers only low-income households. Critics, such as the Association for the Conservation of Energy, believe one way the government could act is to cut or remove VAT from energy-efficient products such as insulation.

At Milton Keynes there are also projects to demonstrate the energy-saving benefits of such technologies as mains pressure domestic hot water and super-insulated timber-frame construction.

NICK NUTTALL
Technology Correspondent

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Project
draws
on lake
power

A combination that cuts costs

Chris Partridge
sees a great future
for CHP in home
and industry

Fears of soaring electricity bills as the newly privatised industry strives for good profits are persuading more and more factories, hotels and hospitals to try generating their own electricity in combined heat and power systems.

Combined heat and power, or CHP, is now a better buy because more economical and reliable engines are under computer control. For years, environmentalists have promoted CHP as a less wasteful way of meeting industry's needs but wide-scale adoption has been held back by short-term thinking in industry, where payback times for capital investment are usually fixed at three years, a short period for expensive equipment.

People are realising that in the long term electricity is going to go up and fuel is going to go down, and that is why CHP is taking off," says David Andrews, an energy consultant with Leverton Cat, a supplier of CHP systems. "Now a certain amount of experience has been built up, so people know it works." The CHP argument has

been strengthened by both concern for the environment and economic and technical trends.

At least 60 per cent of the thermal energy of the coal and oil in power stations is lost up the cooling towers. If electricity could be generated close to where it is needed, the waste heat could be used for heating and the need for central power stations would be dramatically reduced.

As power stations are among the main sources of greenhouse gases and of the sulphur and nitrogen oxides that cause acid rain, the environmental benefits of CHP could be enormous.

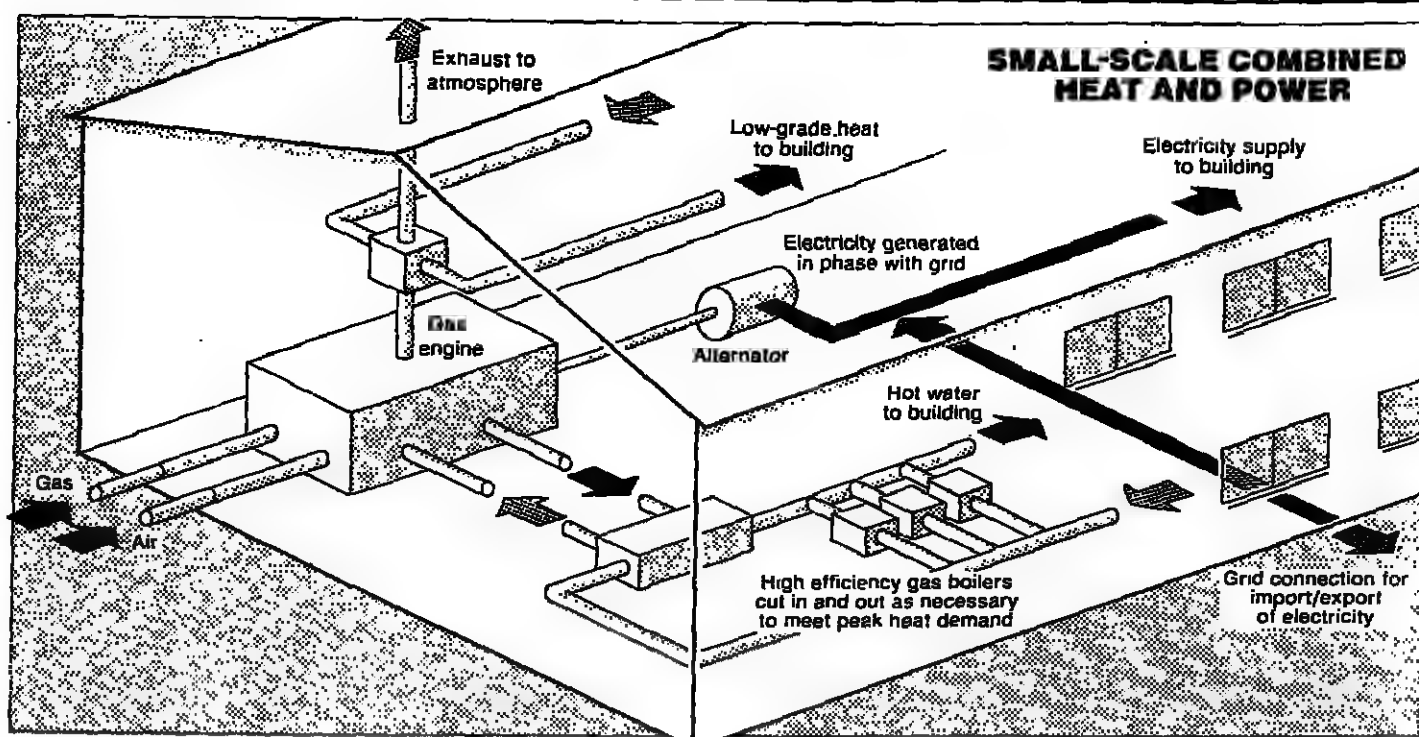
The technical argument is that modern small-scale generator sets with engines from the motor industry are highly reliable and

computer control removes the need for them to be constantly monitored. The spread of natural gas has brought a reliable and fairly cheap supply of clean fuel to most places.

The main obstacles to CHP are financial and cultural. Some industry analysts accuse generating companies of trying to strangle CHP by offering large discounts for big electricity users.

Priorities may be going up faster than expected, says Julian Packer, of Manchester-based Combined Power Systems, the market leader in CHP.

The potential savings of CHP have enabled Combined Power Systems and Leverton Cat to offer buyers a package. The companies supply electricity and heat at a guaranteed discount, and install equipment, which the buyers own and maintain. This system means the customer can have electricity and heat costing about the same as from a boiler, with no capital investment. This is ideal for charge-capped councils and NHS hospitals that are permitted to buy



heat and power but not heat and power generating equipment, Mr Packer says.

Combined Power Systems has installed CHP at Harefield Hospital, west London, and Leverton Cat is installing a system at the Mayday Hospital at Croydon, Surrey, where it has guaranteed a saving of at least £30,000 a year on electricity.

Mr Packer says that because of the improvement in reliability many customers are considering cutting themselves off from the electricity grid. They would not have the safety net of supply from the grid, but neither would they have the cost and inconvenience of dealing with outside electricity suppliers.

The next logical step for CHP is,

however, to transfer surplus electricity to the grid, making money during slack times.

The CHP industry complains bitterly that the market for current is stacked against small suppliers, as the generating companies supply the regional distributors under the terms of privately negotiated contracts that bypass the official "pool", a sort of stock market for

electricity. Despite this, CHP is seen as a weapon by people who want to open up the electricity supply industry to smaller generators.

Possibly the most dramatic development will be in the home. Gas-powered generators are on test at British Gas that could be installed in homes, supplying central heating and electricity for the grid.

Sparking an interest

When it comes to energy efficiency, the worst culprits are the consumers who actually pay for the electricity they waste, according to the electricity industry.

"The problem is that people can be indifferent to energy because it is a relatively small item in their budgets," says Jim Smith, the chairman of Eastern Electricity and a past president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. "If you go to a managing director and say 'I am going to save you 40 per cent of your electricity bill', he will look at his total overheads and decide that it is not worth the time and trouble compared to cutting half his workforce."

Householders are just as bad, seeing little benefit in spending money on energy saving items such as insulation to cut an already affordable electricity bill.

The low priority attached to energy efficiency by consumers is shown, Mr Smith says, by the low level of entries for the industry's three award schemes: PEP, for industry; Beta, for commercial premises; and Medalion, for new houses.

Tremendous cost savings could be gained from better take-up of the schemes," says Mr Smith. "I personally see these schemes as the main

ELECTRICITY

drive to better use of energy. We are not talking of marginal savings of 5 to 10 per cent — we have case histories showing savings in industry of 60 per cent on average."

Mr Smith cites the case of an oil blending plant of Shell Oil at King's Lynn, where an 85 per cent saving in fuel costs was made by replacing a gas-fired oil preheater by an induction heater. Foundries have been making 75 per cent gains by replacing gas cupolas, used to fuse metals, with induction heaters.

On the domestic side, better insulation and the introduction of modern, computer based heating controls, can provide worthwhile fuel savings for the owner which, if applied in all homes, could make a substantial difference to Britain's overall energy consumption, Mr Smith says. "It is feasible to look for a 10 to 15 per cent reduction in demand over the next four or five years if these schemes were taken up by industry and the public."

The electricity industry itself has become noticeably more efficient since privatisation, Mr Smith says, because of the stress of competition.

CHRIS PARTRIDGE

3p to save a fortune

The relationship between the privatised utilities and their respective regulators has appeared a stormy one, but harmony has broken out between British Gas and Sir James McKinnon, the director general of Ofgas, the consumers' watchdog body for the industry, on the issue of energy efficiency.

Ogas has agreed with British Gas that there should be changes in the regulations covering the tariff market, which affects 17 million customers and will come into effect on April 1.

The new pricing formula will include an "E" factor, which will allow all costs associated with the promotion of energy efficiency to be passed on to the consumer. Under the previous regime not all these costs could be passed on, which meant there was a strong disincentive for British Gas to invest in measures resulting in energy savings for the user.

Sir James has also suggested that gas bills should be raised to pay for better insulation in homes occupied by the less well-off households. His suggestion would put 3p a week on the average bill to finance a campaign of action.

Charities have estimated that six million households cannot afford basic insulation and draught-proof-

GAS

ing, and live in badly designed homes, which leak heat. Inefficient, expensive heating systems such as electric bar fires impose an extra burden.

Ogas has pointed out that these people go cold, and the elderly among them could die as a result, or they could run up debts and be disconnected. Expensive systems also waste gas and coal, adding to air pollution and the greenhouse effect.

Sir James says: "There is no question of this being a charitable act. It is a major advance to improve the money people can afford to buy warmth is well spent. The nation also benefits because a finite fuel is used more sparingly."

Ogas has said British Gas should concentrate on selling hot air inside homes and buildings, rather than gas, and should market energy conservation measures such as improved insulation and better boilers as aggressively as it markets gas.

British Gas considers Sir James's suggestion "interesting" and says: "We should like to talk it through with him."

DAVID YOUNG

Fired for the future

Cleaning up coal is one of the major priorities of the energy industry. Coal-fired power stations pump out well over half of Britain's output of the gases that cause acid rain. They also generate about a third of the carbon dioxide that may be contributing to the greenhouse effect.

The first and most obvious step in reducing smokestack pollution is to fit cleaning stages to the chimneys, an expensive and inefficient method but the only option for existing plants. The next generation of coal-fired power stations will be built to comply with future pollution standards, as well as operating more efficiently than current designs.

Unfortunately, privatisation of the electricity industry has put installation of new technology back at least five years in the UK, industry observers say.

No new coal-fired power stations are to be built before the year 2000, and the small generators that will enter service before then all run on natural gas. The current coal-fired power stations are either having gas cleaning equipment installed or are being closed down altogether.

At some stage, it is certain that new coal-fired generating stations will be needed, because stocks of oil and gas will run out in some time in the

COAL

middle of the next century, but reserves of coal are estimated to last for more than 200 years at current rates of consumption.

All methods of reducing emissions carry an efficiency penalty, however. The first generations of "greener" power stations are now being built abroad. They are based on fluidised bed technology, first developed by British Coal but taken up in Sweden by ABB Carbon. Pulverised coal in a fluidised bed burns evenly and hot, and the exhaust gases can be burnt in the best way to minimise emissions.

Another approach is to gasify the coal completely and feed the gas to a gas turbine, called integrated gasification combined cycle (igcc). An igcc demonstration plant is being built by British Gas at Westfield, Scotland.

In the long term British Coal is preparing topping cycle technology, a combination of gasification and fluidised bed technologies to get the best performance out of gas turbines and steam turbines. British Coal aims to build a demonstrator topping cycle power station by 2000.

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Saving face: Andrew Warren, the director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy, pictured with a lamp designed to save energy

Europe saves for future

Andrew Warren throws some light on the European Commission's SAVE programme

Save It is back. Remember that slogan of the 1970s? It was coined shortly after the first great oil price hike of 1973 to impress upon us the need to cease wasting energy. It generated a multitude of responses — some positive, some witty, some plain level. In short, it caught the public imagination in a way no energy conservation campaign has since.

That knowledge no doubt underlay the decision by the European Commission to christen their new energy programme, SAVE — standing for Specific Actions for Vigorous Energy Efficiency. It is intended to make almost as great a contribution to the European Community's efforts to combat global warming, as the controversial 10 dollar a barrel energy/carbon tax.

Its initial budget is relatively small — 35 million Ecu spread over the period 1991-95. The European parliament demanded forcefully that it should be raised to 105 million Ecu. However, officials charged with overseeing the programme argued, somewhat unusually, for the lower figure on the grounds that this is fundamentally a legislative, not a research programme.

The initial signs are that staff and resources are too scarce to ensure that SAVE keeps to its schedule. By the end of 1991, only two of an anticipated five draft directives had been issued, causing a potentially alarming logjam.

The background to SAVE is simply stated. As the European Commission, its promoter, notes: "If current trends in the consumption of energy continue, there is little hope of the community achieving its 1985-1995 objective of improving by 20 per cent the efficiency of final demand. Failure to achieve this will have serious consequences for energy supply, the environment and European competitiveness."

As the official SAVE report somewhat dryly observes: "Since 1985, the majority of member states have reduced or even abolished their programmes which directly support energy efficiency-linked investments. The focus has been on information programmes and a substantial disengagement of the public authorities. It is thus not surprising that during the period 1986-89 there was a further falling off in the improvement in average energy intensity in the community."

The message has gone home. Against a background of growing environmental pressure concerning the climate change brought about by excessive fuel use and concern about oil shortages, the new programme is intended to reverse the recent legacy of benign neglect. There is no suggestion that the various measures pro-

posed should do other than supplement those currently being introduced in various EC countries but each is intended to provide a constructive background, and a commonality of purpose, for the various national schemes.

The SAVE programme is divided into three parts: altering consumer behaviour, improving the performance of equipment and introducing new financial measures. These three are trusty old chestnuts for energy saving programmes.

Among the proposals due to be published this year is a directive ensuring that occupants of blocks of flats will no longer have flat-rate gas or electricity bills; each home will be individually metered. Other proposals include:

- A standardised EC applicable label will give clear and comparable information about the energy consumption of appliances.
- Requirements for energy surveys of existing properties, particularly on change of ownership.
- Minimum insulation levels for all new buildings.
- Minimum performance standards for cars, with regular compulsory inspection.
- A series of 15 pilot studies comparing the cost of investment in

new power generation technology with the cost of reducing demand.

All this is refreshingly radical. It is only when it comes to the promotion of "financial instruments" that SAVE seems to pull its punches. Throughout the preparation of the programme, the EC bureaucrats have stressed that their proposed measures are intended to complement and encourage what member states are already doing, or should be doing, to encourage energy efficiency. In this area particularly, it is constitutionally quite difficult for the EC to do more than encourage national governments to take action. Their powers are mainly persuasive.

Its proponents are proud of SAVE. Antonio Cardoso e Cunha, the EC energy commissioner has stated that, even without complementary national programmes, SAVE could reduce Europe's energy use by 12 per cent. It is forecast to reduce carbon dioxide emissions (the main climate change gas) by more than 500 million tonnes every year and should save the equivalent of 100 million tonnes of oil.

Together with other forms of action, such as fuel substitution, the development of renewable energy sources and the use of economic and fiscal measures, SAVE is likely to make a significant contribution to the European Community's declared targets for both energy efficiency and global warming.

● The author is the director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy

The commission looks for support

David Young on why Britain is against forced energy saving

The British government and the European Commission agree that we use too much energy but have hardly seen eye to eye on the subject of conservation. Britain prefers persuasion and allowing consumers to realise the folly of wasting energy by spelling out the cost. The commission favours the approach of imposing rules, which some see as heavy-handed and inflexible.

The commission proposals have yet to be set out in full, but already there are indications that they will find little favour with the British government or, if initial cost calculations are borne out, the public.

Moves promised by European Community members to cut energy use to prevent global warming are well behind schedule. Only two EC directives have been agreed so far, and Britain has opted out of the one dealing with more efficient heating boilers.

More than 12 months ago the EC promised to stabilise carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels by 2000, and then cut them. At the time this resolve was hailed as an example to the world, but as 1992 begins more than 20 initiatives are still at the drafting stage, and most of the £35 million budget for 1991-5 may remain untouched because of lack of staff and political will.

A directive on the performance standards of 85 per cent efficiency for new liquid and gas-fired boilers, was weakened after British energy department objections.

About 60 per cent of British-made boilers would not meet the new standards. Copper boilers, about 30 per cent of the market, would qualify, but the cast-iron ones, cheap to install but expensive to run, would not.

Agreement has finally been reached, and Britain has been allowed to opt out of introducing efficient boilers until 1997, and to continue making less efficient models, provided it does not export to the Continent.

The energy department argued that the directive would

restrict choice, increase the cost of installing and updating central heating, and cost jobs. David Heathcoat-Amory, an energy minister, says that enforcing the directive would cost 4,500 jobs among workers in foundries and those in related occupations.

Up to 60 per cent of central heating installations would need alterations costing between £200 and £1,000, and converting all the boilers in the UK would cost more than £2 billion.

However, the department's reasoning has been condemned by the Association

next century and combat global warming.

All EC consumers could face much higher bills for electricity, gas, oil and coal, and the enormous sums raised could be used to reduce other taxes. Britain's VAT rate could be cut from 17.5 to 15.5 per cent, or 3p could be lopped off the basic income tax rate, according to the Cambridge Econometrics group of forecasters. The commission has proposed the tax to give Europe world leadership in the fight against man-made climate change.

Carlo Ripa di Meana, the environment commissioner, says: "If nobody makes the first move, we will all let things get worse and worse."

Britain's energy department says it is interested, but much more study is needed of the impact of the tax on low-income families, economies and the international competitiveness of European industry before it can be introduced.



Carlo Ripa di Meana

for the Conservation of Energy. Andrew Warren, its director, says: "It is an appalling indictment of the shortsightedness of the energy department that it has chosen to champion the 60 per cent of boilers that are inefficient."

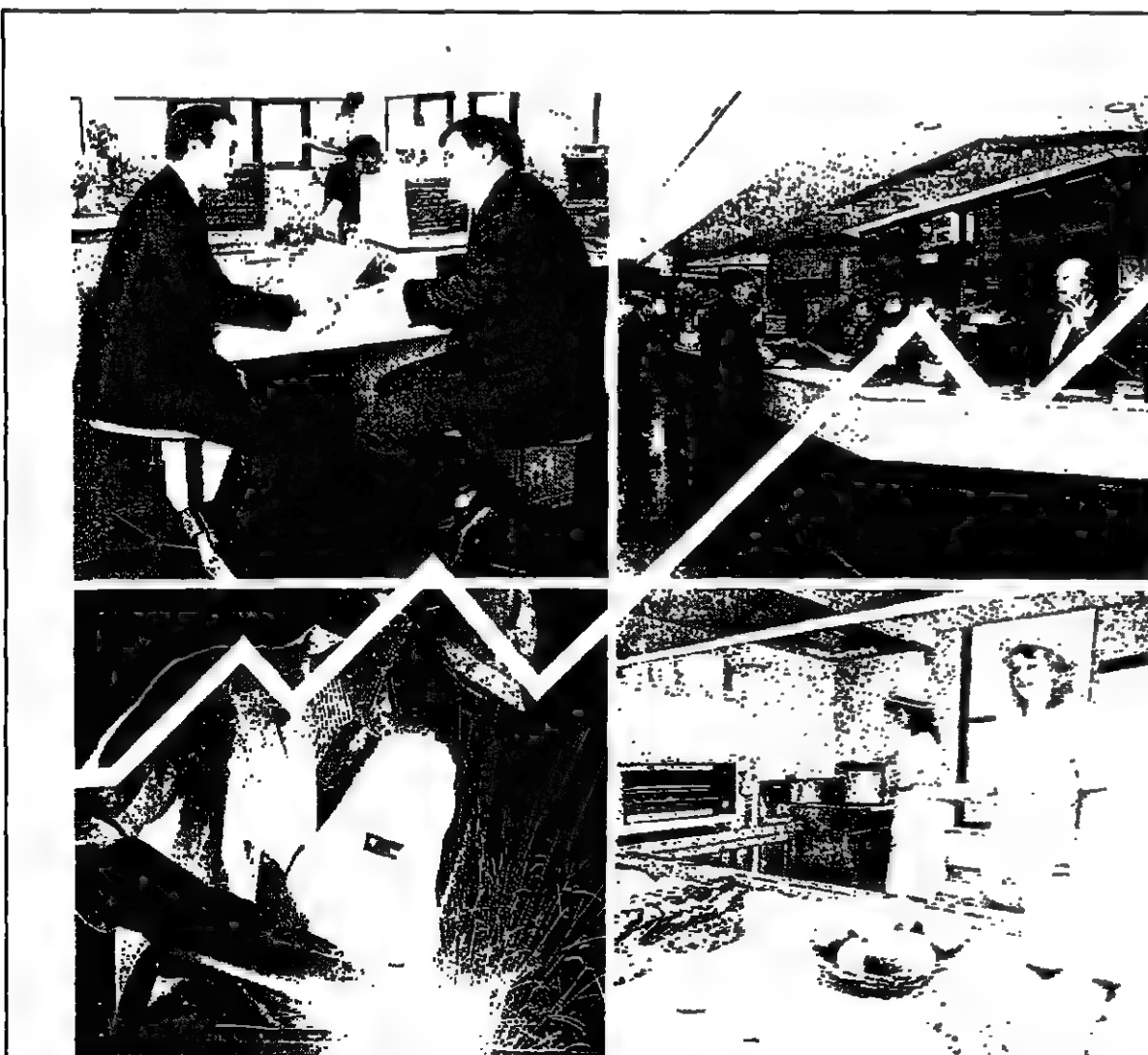
More widespread public opposition to EC moves could come later this year when the cost of the policies are calculated. An energy tax that would raise the price of household fuel more than 50 per cent by 2000 has already been debated by EC energy and environment ministers as part of proposals to cut carbon dioxide emissions in the

John Wakeham, the energy secretary, has said that if the tax reduces Europe's fuel demand, international energy prices will be reduced. Consequently, the rest of the world would use more energy. So although Europe would look more virtuous, just as much carbon dioxide would be poured into the atmosphere.

The commission's proposal is that the tax should begin in 1993 on all fossil fuels at a level equivalent to \$3 per barrel of oil, rising by \$1 a year to reach \$10 by 2000.

The tax would hit fuels such as coal and coke hardest, as they produce the most carbon dioxide, and in Britain the tax would be hardest on low-income families, who spend proportionately more of their income on heating.

Mr Wakeham says the government is not opposed in principle to energy taxes provided they can be fairly applied, but he emphasises that the EC is responsible for only 37 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions, compared with 25 per cent by the United States and the former communist bloc.



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Communism's legacy: East Germany and the other former Soviet satellites must clean up pollution

Dirty war in the east

Eastern Europe is cleaning up its Marxist past, Nigel Hawkes writes

Amid the wreckage of communism in Eastern Europe, an unparalleled opportunity exists for replanning energy more efficiently. The smokestack economies of Eastern and central Europe, dependent until now on coal and on electricity imports from the former Soviet Union, could leapfrog Western experience and build a new system that is environmentally sounder and much more energy-efficient. The odds are that the opportunity will be missed.

The reasons, says Jeremy Russell, a consultant to the British government's know-how fund for Eastern Europe, are apathy, confusion and the pervasive power of Western companies.

"A lot of the decisions they need to take are going to be made for them by outsiders," he says. "Western energy companies are trying to persuade them to buy new power plants, when they ought to be asking whether they are going to need them."

Mr Russell's fears are shared by the International Institute for Energy Conservation, a Washington think tank, which has been pressing the World Bank and other lending institutions to change their policies towards Eastern Europe.

Michael Phillips, the insti-

tute's programme manager for policy and development institutions, argues that while the multilateral lending banks invest more than \$5 billion a year in energy, of which \$3 billion comes from the World Bank alone, less than 1 per cent of the banks' lending goes towards improving energy efficiency.

The banks, he says, are locked into the traditional mode of thinking, in which energy is synonymous with energy supply. In fact, many studies have shown that a better return can be achieved by investments directed at saving energy.

By reducing the need to build new refineries and power stations, such investments would have the further benefit of reducing the pall of pollution over Eastern Europe.

What the banks should be supporting, Mr Phillips says, is the "least-cost energy path", a discipline in which all possibilities for providing energy services are compared on an equal footing.

Often, he says, the best way of providing a service will be by improving the efficiency of end use. Every kilowatt-hour of electricity saved by insul-

ation or more efficient lighting is a kilowatt-hour that can be used somewhere else.

Mr Phillips says: "In every country, energy savings are available at less cost than the equivalent: new energy supplies."

Mr Russell, a former Shell executive, is the author of a report, "Energy and Environmental Conflicts in East/Central Europe: the case of power generation", published by the Royal Institute of International Affairs last month.

He says decision-makers in Eastern Europe, already harassed by the social and political consequences of the

collapse of communism, are now being sweet-talked by Western sales representatives into investing in energy supplies rather than energy saving.

Mr Russell says: "This is an opportunity to hop over many wasteful practices in energy, but I fear we are going to help to perpetuate them." His report says the newly democratised countries need disinterested advice about whether there is a need for new power stations rather than discussions of which type and make of power station should be installed.

The institute says the money saved by concentrating on energy efficiency would free resources for other sectors of the economy that will need them urgently. Mr Russell agrees.

BASIC ENERGY SYSTEMS

WASTE-TO-ENERGY SYSTEMS

★ ENERGY-SAVING SYSTEMS

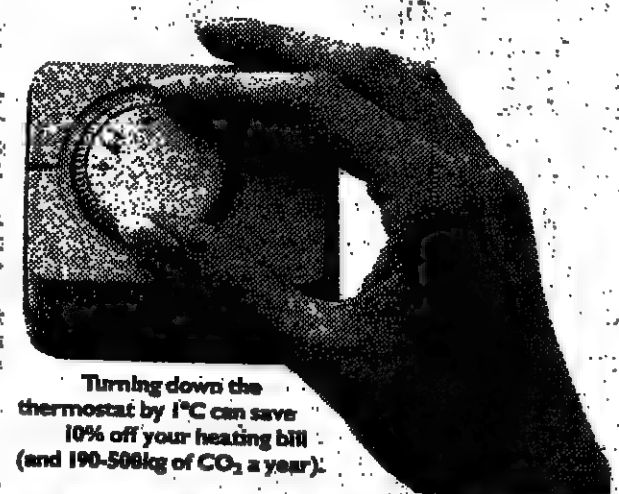
★ MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

★ ALL WASTE APPLICATIONS

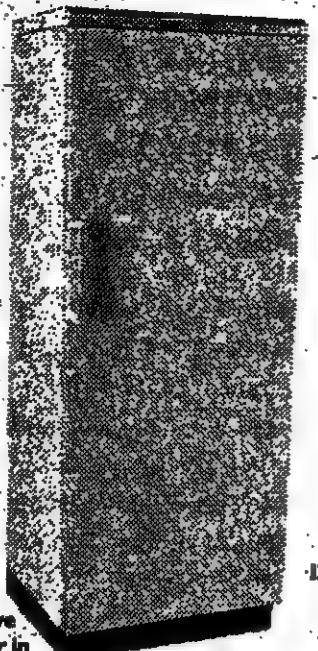
★ MULTI-STAGE COMBUSTION

Basic Energy Systems Ltd, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

What can any one person do about Global Warming?



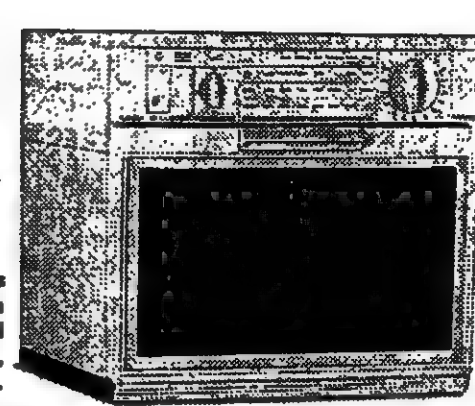
Turning down the thermostat by 1°C can save 10% off your heating bill (and 190-500kg of CO₂ a year).



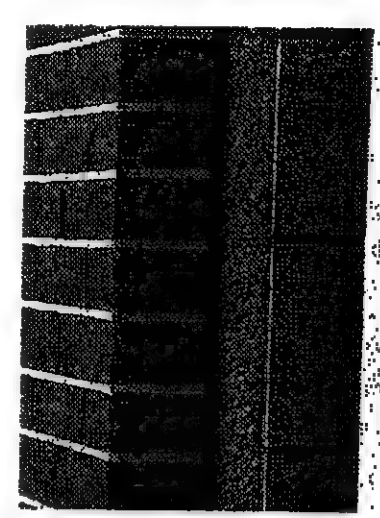
If you are replacing your old freezer, a new energy efficient model can save you up to £40 a year in running costs compared with the average freezer currently in use. Look for the new Energy Efficiency Label on fridges and freezers in your local electricity company showroom.



Use a pressure cooker instead of 3 or 4 saucepans so you only use one ring or burner.



Microwaves use less electricity than conventional ovens and are best for defrosting, or heating up cooked food.



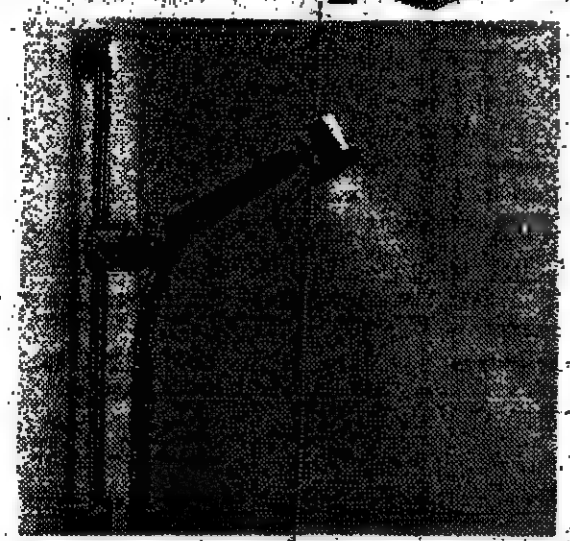
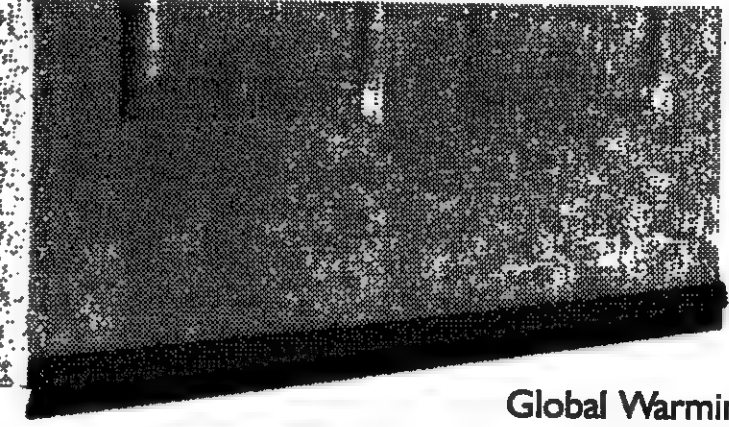
Insulating cavity walls can save £60-80 a year (and 750-1000kg of CO₂ a year). The cost to you will be about £300 to £450.



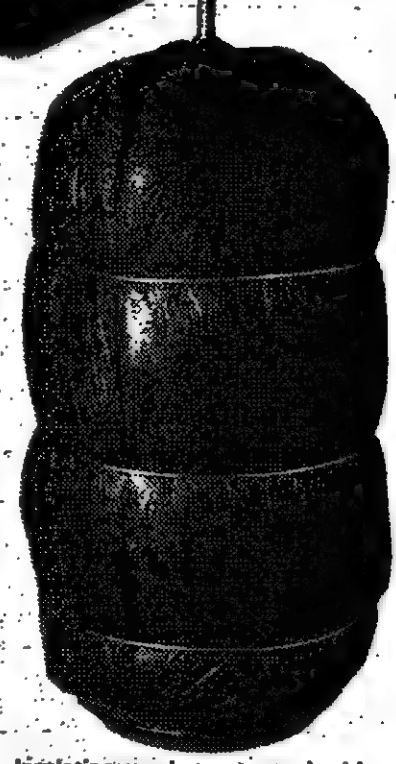
By fitting thermostatic radiator valves you can control the temperature in individual rooms.



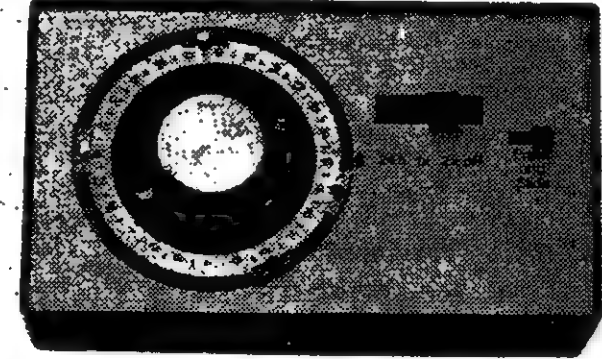
Draughtproofing your windows and doors with simple plastic or metal strips can save £15-40 a year (and 190-500kg of CO₂ a year).



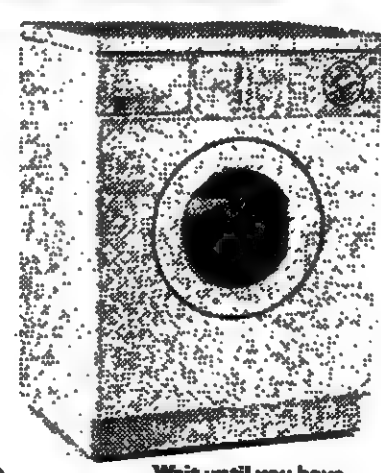
Taking a shower instead of a bath uses only 1/3 of the hot water (and can save 125kg of CO₂ a year).



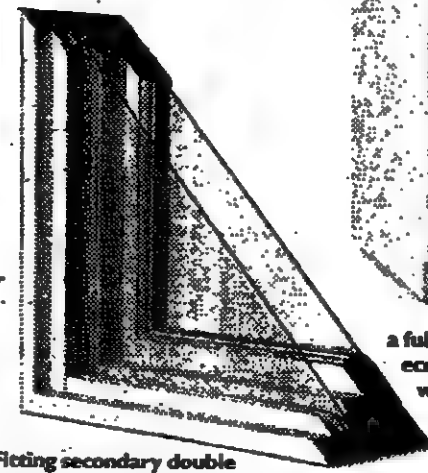
Insulating your hot water tank with a purpose-made jacket can save £10-15 a year (and 125-190kg of CO₂ a year).



Adding a timer or programmer to your central heating system can save £20-25 a year by only providing heat when you need it.



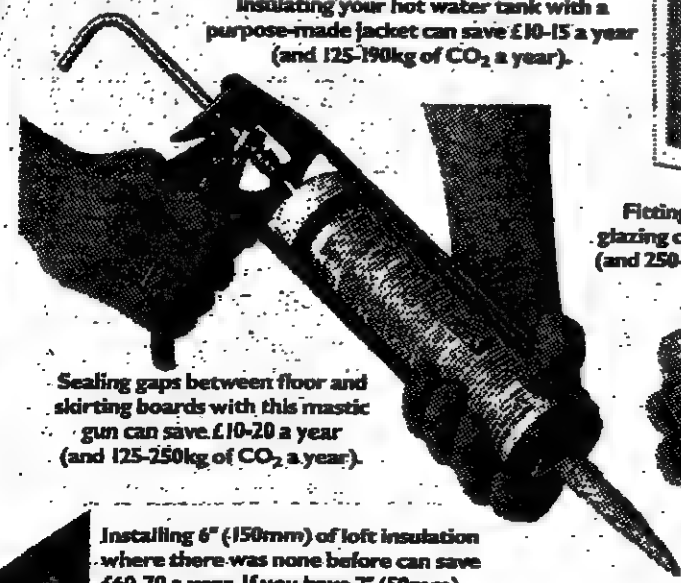
Wait until you have a full load if possible or use the economy programme if your washing machine has one.



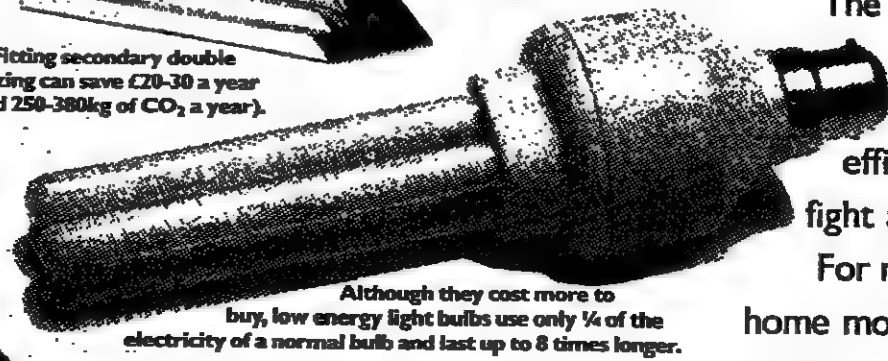
Fitting secondary double glazing can save £20-30 a year (and 250-380kg of CO₂ a year).



A new energy efficient electric cooker can save you up to £35 a year in running costs compared with the average electric cooker currently in use.



Sealing gaps between floor and skirting boards with this mastic gun can save £10-20 a year (and 125-250kg of CO₂ a year).



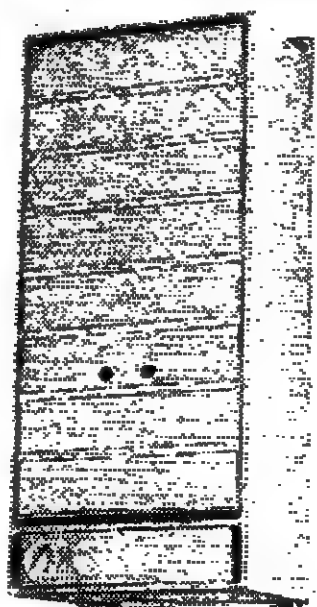
Although they cost more to buy, low energy light bulbs use only 1/4 of the electricity of a normal bulb and last up to 8 times longer.



A dripping hot water tap can waste a bathful of water a day - ensuring taps are turned off properly, and fixing dripping taps, can save up to £5 a year.



Closing your curtains when it's getting dark can save you £10-15 a year (and 125-190kg of CO₂ a year).



Replacing an old gas central heating boiler with a new condensing boiler costs extra to start with, but can save £100-150 a year (and 1250-1900kg of CO₂ a year). This is one of the biggest single savings you can make.

Global Warming is caused by the warming effect of carbon dioxide and other gases in the atmosphere, trapping the sun's heat. It's popularly known as the 'Greenhouse Effect'.

Carbon dioxide, the major greenhouse gas, is created whenever we use energy generated from fossil fuels, whether in our homes, offices, factories or for transport.

More than a quarter of Britain's CO₂, however, is produced by the energy we use in our homes and it is in our homes that each of us can make our greatest contribution to becoming more energy efficient.

By making relatively straightforward changes in the way we use energy at home, it's estimated that we could cut our fuel bills - and thus also the amount of carbon dioxide generated - by 20% or more.

The ideas shown here are only a sample of the many things each of us can do every day to use energy more efficiently - and thus play our part in the fight against Global Warming.

For more details about how to make your home more energy efficient, please telephone 0345 247 347, for only the cost of a local call. Or complete the coupon and send it to: Helping the Earth Begins at Home, P.O. Box 200, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 9ZZ.

For a free information pack, please telephone 0345 247 347, for only the cost of a local call, or send this coupon to: Helping the Earth Begins at Home, P.O. Box 200, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 9ZZ. (Please print)

Name Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

Address _____

Town _____ Postcode _____

My home is _____ years old and is heated by

Gas ☐ Electricity ☐ Other ☐ (Please tick)

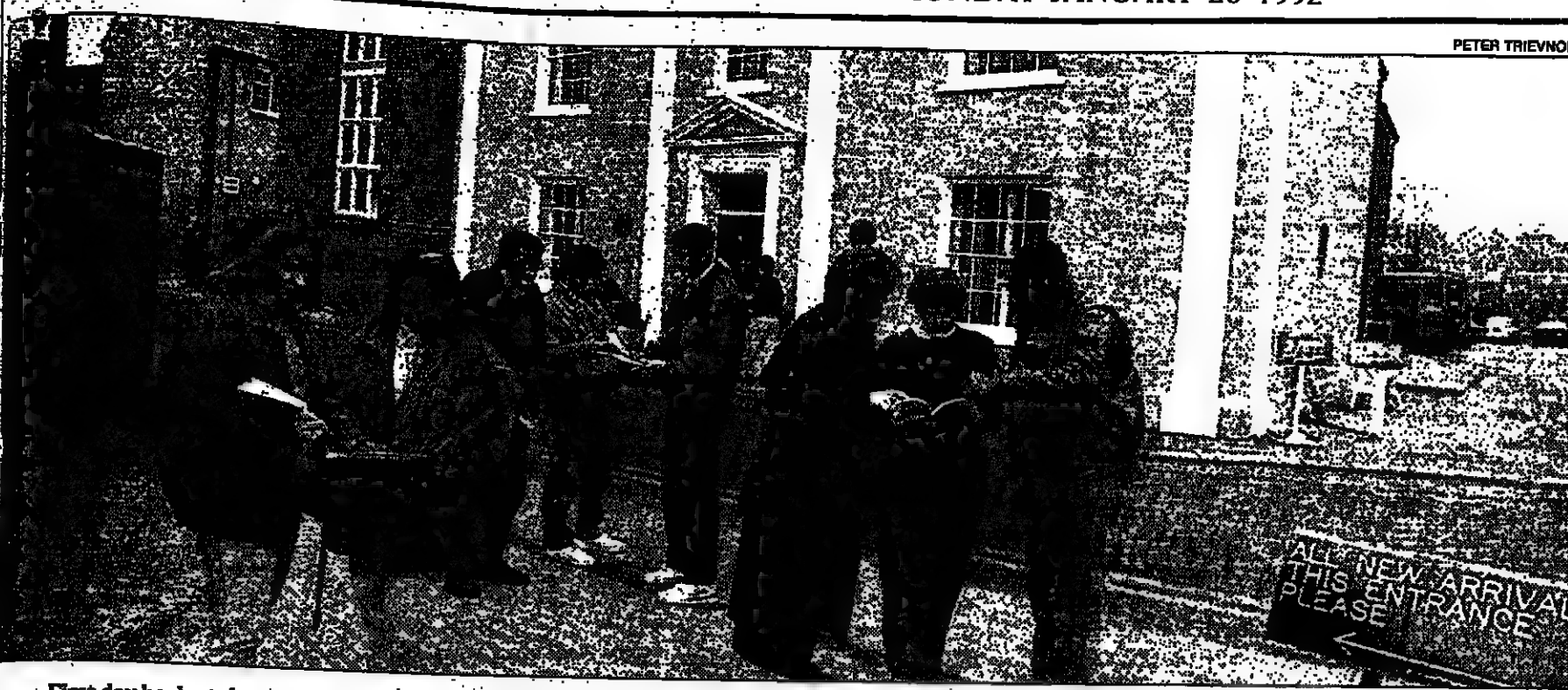
Tick here if you would not like your name to be included on our mailing list for further information about home energy efficiency. ☐

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

ON THE WRONG TRACK 32
CHARITY OR ELITISM? 32

EDUCATION TIMES

MONDAY JANUARY 20 1992



First day back at the university — Britain's only such privately-funded institution — that charges £16,000 for a student to read for a two-year degree

Several hundred students start a new academic year today, knowing they will be paying annual fees of £5,000 for a university education that their peers will get for nothing.

The students have opted for two degrees at Britain's only private university, in Buckingham. Now 15 years old, the university is about to come under the public spotlight again with the appointment of Sir Richard Luce, the former arts minister, as vice-chancellor, and Margaret Thatcher as chancellor.

Since being granted full university status nine years ago, Buckingham has been quietly living down its early reputation as a right-wing experiment, winning acceptance in the higher education world. The choice of two senior Conservatives is a calculated risk: it may rouse old antipathies, but it should raise the university's profile.

Buckingham has always appealed to students who cannot get into other universities or who want the quickest possible mid-career break. However, as the higher education system expands at breakneck speed and the 34 polytechnics become universities, students' options are widening.

Even the two-year degree will not be unique for long because a number of polytechnics are running pilot programmes next year.

For a university that lives or dies on the number of students it can attract, such heightened competition represents a serious threat, but also an opportunity.

Buckingham's other main sell-

Will the Thatcher factor work?

The appointment of two Conservative flag-bearers is a gamble for Britain's only private university. John O'Leary reports

ing point is the personal touch allowed by its smallness. In an era of mass higher education, that may allow the university to thrive against the odds.

At the same time, Buckingham's new appointments should pay dividends in the international market, which still provides most of the university's students. Sir Richard, who will join as soon as a general election is called, has valuable contacts from two spells in the Foreign Office, and there could hardly be a better standard-bearer abroad than Mrs Thatcher.

With a Buckingham degree costing at least £20,000 by the time living expenses are added to the annual fees, some might have expected the recession to have dimmed the university's prospects. In fact, a 150 per cent increase in applications from the first year in which students "could" apply through the universities' central admissions system was followed by a 20 per cent increase last year.

The university dispenses

£274,000 in bursaries, as well as running a hardship fund for those who run into unforeseen financial difficulties.

Professor Peter Watson, the acting vice-chancellor, says: "We have had a very modest increase in applications to the hardship fund, but otherwise the recession has not affected us too badly yet."

The attractions of two-year degrees are even stronger now that students elsewhere are amassing debts, rather than finding jobs or claiming benefits in their vacations. Buckingham students study for 40 weeks of the year, including a compulsory foreign language course. Few of those returning for the new year admit to regrets about their choice of university.

Sarah Wilson, a 22-year-old English student, says: "Compared with friends at other universities, we have to hand in a lot more work. But the students' first priority here is their degrees."

Mohammed Al-Ali, the 25-year-old Kuwaiti president of the students' union and a beneficiary of the hardship fund during the Gulf war, says: "There is a great sense of community, and students of all ages from all over the world really mix well. The facilities may not be as good as at other universities but they are improving."

Professor Watson concedes that students paying such high fees expect more. Five acres of farmland on the edge of Buckingham are being converted to playing fields, and a sports hall is promised when the present £6 million building plan has been completed. That involves the conversion of nearby Victorian factory buildings, increasing the teaching and library space by 50 per cent.

The development promises to transform the campus, where the scale has always been that of a small college, rather than a university. It will also make room for a planned expansion from 900 to 1,300 students by the year 2000.

Sir Richard Luce, whose son is a Buckingham graduate, is reluctant to contemplate further growth and wants to avoid his appointment being seen as a Conservative coup.

He says: "I am conscious that the combination of myself and Mrs Thatcher may be seen in political terms, but I am determined that Buckingham should continue to welcome people of all persuasions, as it always has done. As an independent university, it needs to be at the leading edge of higher education."

After a period of consolidation, Buckingham staff are in bullish mood. The law school claims the biggest undergraduate recruitment of any university other than Cambridge, and the research potential in life sciences has been enhanced by the arrival of Professor Len Evans from Leeds University. Spanish, Italian and Japanese courses are being planned, as well as a novel combination of law, biology and the environment.

Buckingham's success never encouraged the growth of other independent universities that many expected, and is unlikely now to reach the original target of 3,000 students. Indeed, it would not meet the criteria laid down by the government last week for colleges to become universities. Yet the achievement of gatecrashing a previously select university club, and winning academic respectability should not be underestimated.

"There should be room for a bit of diversity," Professor Watson says. "It is a miracle we are here at all."

Freedom fighters

GOVERNMENT proposals to safeguard academic freedom under the further and higher education bill have failed to quell opposition from universities and peers from both main parties. The amendments will be discussed in the House of Lords today in an attempt to defuse claims that the bill gives unlimited power to the government to intervene in the running of universities.

Under the main amendment, the education secretary would be prevented from issuing orders relating to specific courses or research programmes. Both the contents of courses and the manner in which they are taught, supervised and assessed would be left to institutions.

Vice-chancellors had hoped that the changes would limit ministers' powers to the protection of public money. The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals says: "The government amendments are better than nothing, but we would prefer to see the circumstances in which ministers can exercise their powers clearly defined."

— equivalent to the closure of 15 primary schools, each with 250 pupils — would put intolerable strains on schools. David Lack, the spokesman for this is not a political campaign. "We would be saying this, whichever party was in power."

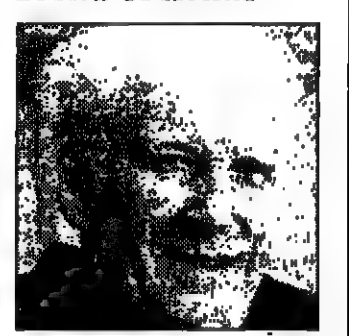
Ministers have offered help to a school with a £5.7 million asbestos problem. Lorrain Region, in Scotland, will be allowed to borrow the money to clean up the 1,000-pupil Lighthgow Academy. Local authorities are normally responsible for building work.

Century score

IN MARCH 1892 a group of preparatory school headmasters met in Marylebone, central London, to discuss the appropriate size and weight of a cricket ball to be used in inter-school matches. The meeting led to the formation of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools, which will mark its centenary with a day of celebration in London on July 18.

The association plans to raise more than £100,000 for the Joint Education Trust, which helps place children from disadvantaged homes in independent boarding schools.

Head of heads



Chairman: Father Dominic

THE Rev Dominic Milroy, a Benedictine monk and headmaster of Ampleforth College, near York is the new chairman of the Headmasters' Conference, which represents 234 leading independent schools. In a letter to his fellow headmasters, he says: "Our solidarity with the maintained sector is of the deepest importance for the future of the nation's education and we should do everything we can to cultivate it by seeking points of convergence, both nationally and locally."

DAVID TYTLER

All the class is a stage

How actors are bringing Shakespeare's plays to life for pupils

A new approach to the teaching of Shakespeare is giving fresh life to the classics for pupils in Gwent. A Midsummer Night's Dream, Macbeth, The Tempest and Romeo and Juliet are being introduced to ten to 12-year-olds through improvisation and music.

Jane Davies, Gwent's drama advisory teacher, devised the scheme, which treats very play as a script to be acted rather than a text to be read behind desks, and uses actors from a local theatre. "We combine movement, mime and discussions to illustrate Shakespearean themes and characters," she says.

This term, Miss Davies and John Lovet, a Gwent Theatre actor, are running workshops on A Midsummer Night's Dream in 22 secondary schools.

Mr Lovet says: "We begin by giving each 12-year-old a line from Puck's speech. 'Now the hungry lion roars', and asking them to enact their line's key words through mime or action. They soon grasp that their lines are part of a larger whole. They then use the text as a basis for writing their own poetry, often containing the horror images that feature in Shakespeare's speech."

Miss Davies adds: "Throughout,

emphasis is placed on studying Shakespeare's language. In the past, children have been put off Shakespeare because the vocabulary is unfamiliar. By focusing on key words we bypass this problem."



Children also work with the theatre designer on creating masks and costumes, and the workshop ends with atmospheric music composed with the help of a company musician. "The approach stimulates the pupils to study the play further in class," Mr Lovet says, "encouraging us to reconsider characterisation before performing the play to participating schools next term."

Earlier this year, a similar method was adopted to introduce Macbeth to 5,500 primary school pupils. Friendly "servants" in Macbeth's castle invited the

children to meet the main characters, and explain the action to them in modern English whenever the speeches and soliloquies proved difficult. "As a result," Mr Lovet says, "the children quickly grasped the theme of the play and enjoyed the experience."

For most pupils, this was their introduction to Shakespeare, but it was so successful that Miss Davies and the actors wrote a guidebook for teachers. Many of the sample lessons in the book were tested in schools last term.

As the project emphasises Shakespeare's cross-curricular appeal, Romeo and Juliet is explored through music. Pupils are given copies of the prologue and, after familiarising themselves with its rhythm, they set it to music. The pupils then identify significant words — "grudge" and "death", for example — and establish whether the tune they choose is appropriate.

For teachers and actors, the active approach's greatest benefit is that it makes the classics enjoyable for pupils. Miss Davies concludes: "Shakespeare is not boring when taught this way."

IOLA SMITH

The language of recession

Schools teaching English to foreigners earn millions for Britain, but profits are down

For the first time in 20 years, self-doubt has crept into one of Britain's long-term boom industries. EFL, the teaching of English as a foreign language. There are now an estimated 800 schools attracting 500,000 students a year and about £1 billion in foreign exchange.

EFL is believed to be Britain's sixth biggest source of invisible earnings, ahead of films and television, publicly financed education and consulting engineers.

The industry has long suffered from bad publicity because of the unregulated nature of the industry that caters for a third of the students and is often accused of giving poor tuition.

This year there have been other problems. The Gulf war set back bookings, the increase in VAT has made the industry even less competitive compared with rivals in the US, Australia, Ireland and Malta, and the recession is making potential customers look at different ways of learning English.

Jane Merrick is a director of the Region Group, whose 15 schools provide individual tuition for business executives all year and for groups of teenagers in the summer.

She says: "We are at the quality end so we have not been as badly hit as some, yet we are 15 per cent down on last year. Some schools have had to cut their classes by half and others, which are equipped to cater for a hundred a week, now have only a handful of students."

"One Italian organisation, which last year sent thousands of students, is this year sending only hundreds. Competition is getting stronger elsewhere, so we have to work much harder on our product and our marketing if we are going to recover fully," Timothy Blake, who runs

the London School of English in Holland Park, says: "The average age of our students is 30 and they are mostly professional people."

"There is a universal need to learn English. The Gulf war set the whole industry back this year."

"The adult market has largely recovered because adults tend to book much later, but those who cater for children have been far worse hit. Plans for trips to Britain to learn English are usually made in January, which was the time of the war last year."

"Many parents decided 1991 was not the year to send Pedro or Gina off to learn the language."

Robin Watson runs a school at Brecon, in south Wales, where each year 200 European business people go for a taste of country life

and individual tuition. He says: "We do most of our business in the summer and we have long-standing relationships with leading companies such as Fiat and IBM. Although business is down, it is still better than three years ago."

Over the past 20 years, John Rendle has built up a thriving English Studies Centre in Coventry. At its peak, the business was providing 4,000 "student weeks" a year. He says: "This is our worst year. I just hope we get through this year without getting too much in debt."

Richard Livingstone, the chief executive of Arels Felco, the British Council recognised language-tuition trade body, accepts that 1991 has been a difficult year but adds: "Excluding the rogue schools, we are still ahead on quality. All the world uses the books and material developed in Britain and it is our training of teachers that other countries want."

HUGH THOMPSON

EDUCATION

POSTS

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH CHILDREN



Today almost 2 million children world-wide are studying mathematics with the Kumon programme. Kumon's success stems largely from the commitment and dedication of our ever-expanding team of Supervisors. Each Supervisor works part-time on a self-employed basis running a study centre in his or her local area.

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Applications are invited from candidates with expertise and interests in any area of accounting, finance or cognate areas for a Lectureship in the Department of Accounting and Finance. A professional qualification is desirable but not essential. Potential applicants who wish to discuss the post informally are invited to contact Professor Paul Draper. Tel: 041-552 4400 Ext. 3889. Salary is negotiable up to £23,739 per annum.

For application form and further particulars (Ref 10/92) contact the Personnel Office, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow G1 1XG. Applications Closing Date: 10th February 1992.

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When a child spins off the fast track

Hugh Thompson reports on a boy who could not cope when he was moved to a more competitive preparatory school

The plan was for Edward Marshall, who is ten years old, to go to a fast-track prep school in Kingston, south-west London, until he was 13, then take the Common Entrance examination for one of the leading London independent schools such as St Paul's or Westminster.

Last September, he duly moved from his primary school in nearby Putney. His mother, Elizabeth, recalls: "At first, he was enthusiastic about the idea of stepping out on his own and going to a school with such good sports facilities. We were happy having looked over various schools and Edward (not his real name) had passed the exam."

"Almost at once we noticed he was miserable. There were tears in the morning and evening. But we put this down to the problems of settling down with a group of boys who had been together for several years."

Edward's father, David, continues: "I went to Sherborne and I remember hating the prep school when I first went, so I did not worry much when Edward found it difficult to settle. I thought it was part of the process of finding his way, becoming accepted by another group."

Edward, however, had obviously made up his mind that, fast-track or not, the school was not for him. He was continually complaining that his previous friends were going to good schools such as Latymer Upper so why was he having to go through such an unpleasant experience?

He became ill. The parents started to realise that the problem might represent something more than the normal teething difficulties when a child moves into a more competitive environment.

Mrs Marshall says: "We told him we would think again at half-term. By then, he had become pale, was complaining of stomach upsets and had to be taken out of school on a number of occasions. Monday mornings became quite painful. He had changed from being a robust boy into a

clinging child who could not bear to see us go out." After six weeks of consultation with the new school and his old primary, Edward made the switch back to Putney.

Mr Marshall says: "All the time he kept saying to us, 'Why don't you listen to me?' In the end, we decided that the happiness of our child was more important than our ambitions. Academically, he got on well at the fast-track, he loved the teachers. But in the end, he couldn't see the logic of being at that school."

"He voted with his feet. I realised that my son was not me. To be positive about the experience, we have learnt that our child's happiness is more important than his education."

Many children find switching schools difficult. Most successful schools are adaptable enough and most children flexible enough to accommodate each other, but sometimes the initial problems develop into something more.

Roy Moody, a former housemaster at Epsom College in Surrey and headmaster of the Kingston prep for six years, says: "Edward was happy at his previous school and when things got difficult did not see why he should make the effort."

"Several types of boy can have problems. Some are just unsuitable for the school and these they should be spotted and dealt with quickly."

There are those who are sensitive and vulnerable and have to be helped through the process of adjustment. Some need more time than others; the process of settling down in any new environment involves a change in the pecking order, which involves a certain amount of jostling.

"Some boys are better at handling this than others. The school always provides a helping hand but adults cannot be too involved. Otherwise the boy cannot fend for himself."

Peter Kendall, an educational psychologist, says: "This kind of problem is fairly common. It comes down to



whether the face fits. Ninety per cent of children are worried in the first half an hour of a new school. After two days the number is down to about 10 per cent, and after a week you are left with about 5 per cent.

"In the case you describe, it may be that if more new boys had been joining with Edward, he would have been camouflaged and got away with it. The trouble is that going to a more competitive school is not just a question of moving up an intellectual gear but about how children react to change, what social skills they have and how competitive they are."

The first sign of a serious problem is disruption in sleeping or eating habits. It is rare for a ten-year-old child to accuse his or her parents of not listening, as in this case. That was a real flashing light.

"We had a 13-year-old from one of the main London boarding schools, who was tall and artistic and was unlucky in his choice of house. He

was bullied, but insisted on trying to sit it out. He has now switched to a top London day school. In order to survive, he had to say he was leaving because his parents could no longer afford the fees."

Roger Trafford, the headmaster of Clifton prep school and the chairman of the Incorporated Association of Prep Schools, says: "It does happen that a school and a child are totally unsuited. However, I think it is dangerous for any parent to say to a child, 'Let us give it a term and if you do not like it, you can change'."

"Parents must do their homework, but if there are problems they should talk to the school. Often they are seeing a different child. Schools today are pretty flexible. Although no headteacher likes to admit that their school has failed, they will, if they are worth their salt, sometimes admit a change is necessary. There is no point in forcing a child. School should be enjoyable."

The public service of private schools

IS IT right that "a few wealthy independent schools continue to enjoy high incomes generated by their charitable endowments"? I quote from the advertising material for today's conference in London, Schools and Charitable Status, organised by the Directory of Social Change.

I have little doubt where the organisers sympathise lie. Professor Brian Simon, whose hostility to independent schools is well documented, will ask whether schools that already have more than others can justify using charitable funding.

The question is fair. Everybody knows there is a difference between Eton College and Barnardos. However, my answer to the question is a resounding "Yes". The Charitable Uses Act of 1601, which still determines the course of the English law of charity, does not give a definition but an enumeration of charitable uses. The act's provisions include the relief of poverty and distress, but also roadworks, flood defences, the preservation of ancient buildings and industrial training, indicating that caring about such things is for good for the whole community.

The 19th century gave us a definition of charitable uses but at least a classification, which was given voice by Lord Macnaghten in a 1893 case. This also includes relief of poverty, which is a universal attribute of charity, and it adds:

"the advancement of education, the advancement of religion, and other purposes beneficial to the community". Halsebury's Law of England says that for nearly two centuries the courts have considered that independent schools benefit "a sufficient section of the community".

Lord Goodman's committee on charity, set up by a Labour government in 1976, and the 1990 judgement from Anthony Lester, QC, and David Pannick argued that "an exclusion of fee-charging schools from charitable status would be a breach of the state's duty to respect the right of parents to ensure their children an education in conformity with their own philosophical convictions".

The courts will not judge between political views. If education is a proper charitable activity, all education is proper charitable activity. Charitable status, however, brings responsibilities as well as fiscal benefits. The most important responsibility is to ensure that the fiscal benefits of charitable status are used charitably. A recent survey shows that independent schools pay out more in bursaries and scholarships than they receive as a result of charitable status. The schools benefited by almost £41.4 million from charitable

status but gave away more than £55.3 million in scholarships and bursaries.

The gap between charitable grants made by the schools and the benefits they gain from charitable status has widened since the previous survey. Charitable grants have increased by 52 per cent, whereas benefits have increased by only 34 per cent. At Eton, one boy in six has a free or reduced-fee place, and at Winchester, more than a quarter of the boys receive direct assistance with fees.

Most independent schools benefit their local communities not only as employers but also through community service programmes. The programmes link the schools with their local community, with local maintained schools, particularly primary and special schools, with local authority homes and with all sorts of agencies.

There are many examples throughout Britain of schools serving the local community. Independent schools also play a prominent part in national projects that have devised schemes for bringing the local community and the school closer by good use of the buildings and facilities.

Haileybury's complex of sports hall and all-weather games surface is shared with people from outside the school, and this practice is repeated throughout the country. If charitable status were removed, the schools' fees would rise. Small schools would be particularly affected, especially those that use charitable endowments to keep basic fees low.

Some religious foundations would be at risk, the number of scholarships and bursaries would be drastically cut and some schools would not survive. Although most schools would be winged rather than mortally wounded, we would be made much more exclusive because many parents who can now just afford to send their children would have to remove them.

In my many years in teaching, more than 20 as a headmaster, I have devoted much time to building bridges between the maintained and the independent sectors, and I have encouraged my independent sector colleagues to contribute to the maintained sector and to learn from it. I view the threat of the removal of charitable status, leading inevitably to further divergence between the two sectors, with great sadness. I fervently hope it will never happen.

DAVID JEWELL

The author is Master of Haileybury and a former chairman of the Headmasters' Conference



Building bridges: David Jewell

POSTS



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The successful candidate will be a graduate with a professional teaching qualification. Previous experience in a museum education department would be an advantage, as would an interest in the history of London's transport.

If you are interested in this position, please write enclosing a CV to John Waite, Central Personnel, 9th floor, 55 Broadway, London SW1H 0BD, quoting reference CDV 9259/E.

The closing date for this post is Friday 14 February 1992.



OSTFOLD COLLEGE, Dep. of Foreign Languages, Div. of English, Halden, Norway

Further information about the College, the position, conditions of appointment and the method of application may be obtained from Halden College, Lecturer Øyvind Hestmark, or Head of Division Lecturer Robert Mikkelsen (telephone: +47 5 180041).

Applications close 31 January 1992.

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POSTS

GOLDSMITHS' COLLEGE University of London

Appointment of The Warden

Arising from the retirement of Professor Andrew Rutherford, the Wardenship of Goldsmiths' College will become vacant on 1 October 1992.

The Council of the College, which is the only multi-faculty School of the University in South East London, has established a Committee to recommend an appointment to the post. The Committee invites applications or enquiries from persons wishing to be considered for the Wardenship.

Further details may be obtained by writing to the Chairman of Council, c/o the Secretary's Office, Goldsmiths' College, University of London, New Cross, London SE14 6NW.

The Committee will not restrict its consideration to those making application under this advertisement.

The College is an equal opportunities employer.

FELLOWSHIPS

ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE Research Fellowships

The Governing Body of St Catharine's College invites applications from men and women for election to up to three Research Fellowships, tenable without restriction as to subject, from 1 October 1992 for three years. Candidates must be graduates of a University and under thirty years of age on 1 October 1992. The closing date for applications is 1 March 1992.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary for the Research Fellowship Competition, St Catharine's College, Cambridge, CB2 1RL (Telephone: 0223 - 338349).

ST. CATHERINE'S COLLEGE, OXFORD Nuclear Electric Research Fellowship in Applied Mathematics

Applications are invited for this three-year Fellowship (with possible extension for a further two years) from candidates interested in applying mathematics to technological problems. Further particulars are available from the Master's Secretary, St. Catherine's College, Oxford, OX1 3UJ (tel: 01865 271762, fax 01865 271767). The closing date for applications will be 15 March 1992.

SELWYN COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE School Teacher Bye-Fellowship

The College hopes to elect one or two School Teacher Bye-Fellows (non-stipendiary) for the Lent or Easter Term 1993 or for a period in the Long Vacation. Full details and application forms are available from the Master's Secretary, Selwyn College, Cambridge, CB3 9DQ. All applications must be received by Saturday, 29 February, 1992.

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Ryde Again to be Pitman ace

JENNY and Mark Pitman, who won the most valuable race at Kempton on Saturday with Egypt Mill Prince, look the combination to follow today at Leicester where they can land a treble with Ryde Again (1.00). The flywhacker (2.30) and Ebony Gale (3.30).

Following that 12-length victory at Chesham 13 days ago, Ryde Again is napped to win the first division of the Dick Christian Novices' Chase. A full brother to Celtic Ryde and a half-brother to Noddy's Ryde, both high-class jumpers killed in racecourse falls, Ryde Again has always looked the type to excel at chasing.

It was disappointing to see

him fall early on in his only race over fences last season, when he was trained by Peter Hurd, but he could not have jumped better at Chesham for his new trainer. He is now poised to fulfil his potential.

His most interesting opponent this afternoon is arguably the Nicky Henderson-trained Tynnyland, who had good form over hurdles two seasons ago, although not as good as Ryde Again, before he developed leg trouble.

The experience that The flywhacker gained when

winning his first race over fences at Leicester earlier this month should stand him in good stead when he returns to the Midlands track to contest the other division of the Dick Christian Novices' Chase.

Having won the Bic Razor Lanzarote Hurdle 12 months ago, Star Season will not be a pushover, especially since he too made a pleasing start in his chasing career at Newton Abbot on Boxing Day when beating his nearest Time by a comfortable two lengths.

Ebony Gale, who provide the stable with further cause for celebration by winning the Stonesby Novices' Hurdle now that he will be racing over three miles for the first time. His style of racing and

pedigree suggest he is crying out for this trip.

While Superior Finish, another member of the formidable Pitman raiding party, should also give a good account of himself in the Daniel Lambert Handicap Hurdle 1 prefer Derab. He gave the impression that the distance of today's race would suit him better when going under by only half a length to Wake Up over the minimum trip last time.

For the Croxton Park Novices Hurdle the Pitman family rely upon Lusty Light, who caught the eye with that promising first run behind Martha's Son at Stratford, Carobee and Ring Of Fortune should also go well but I

am more interested in Live Action and Cabochon.

Live Action, whose sights are reportedly set on the Lincoln in the long term, loved some cut in the ground when he was trained on the Flat by Luca Cumani. So it was not surprising to see him make a winning debut over hurdles for Henrietta Knight over today's course and distance 13 days ago.

Cabochon, trained at Newmarket by David Morley, also liked soft going on the Flat and in his favourite conditions he was good enough to win the Ascot Stakes during the royal meeting. He could well prove capable of making a winning jumping debut in this company.

Carvill's Hill on course for National challenge

By MICHAEL SEELY



Balding: delighted by Morley Street's gallop

CARVILL'S Hill has been installed favourite for the Grand National at 10-1 "with a run" by Corals after a decision by his owner Paul Green to enter the Cheltenham Gold Cup favourite for the world's greatest steeplechase.

"It has an easy race in the Gold Cup, there's no reason why he shouldn't go to Aintree," Green said. "But it will be a team decision and nothing will happen without consultation with Martin Pipe and Peter Scudamore."

Carvill's Hill's appearance amongst the National entries, which will be announced on Wednesday, poses a problem for Christopher Mordaunt, the senior National Hunt handicapper, similar to the one he encountered when Burrough Hill Lad and Desert Orchid were allotted 12th 5lb and 12th 2lb respectively in 1985 and 1990.

Last season, a hard race in the Gold Cup on unsuitably fast going prevented Twin Oaks from being in the National. "We're entering him at Cheltenham again only as a precautionary measure," said Nicky Richards, trainer Gordon Richards's son.

"The National is his main

objective. He'd only run at Cheltenham if the ground were to become very testing and if something were to happen to Carvill's Hill. But first he'll be back to Haydock for the Greenalls Gold Cup."

The betting on the Champion Hurdle continues to be dominated by the full-brothers Morley Street and Granville Again, who are priced at 3-1 and 5-1 respectively. Morley Street, last year's winner, delighted Toby Balding in a gallop at the weekend and is now on target for the Bishops Cleeve Hurdle at Cheltenham on Saturday.

"We had a scare when he was cast in his box on Friday morning," Balding said. "He banded his off-fore joint but he is all right now."

At Haydock, Granville Again extended his unbeaten record for the season to four when comprehensively outpacing Winnie The Witch after a slow-run FK Roofing Champion Hurdle Trial.

"He did well to recover from a bad mistake on the far side," said Scudamore. A treat is certainly in store at Cheltenham on Saturday as Nicky Henderson yesterday confirmed Remittance Man to be on course for a meeting with Rolling Ball in the Arlington Chase Final.

LEICESTER

MANDARIN	THUNDER	RICHARD EVANS
1.00 RYDE AGAIN (nap).	1.00 Ryde Again.	2.30 The flywhacker.
1.30 Cabochon.	1.30 Live Action.	3.00 SIBTON ABBEY
2.00 Reef Reef.	2.00 Derry Reef.	(nap).
2.30 The flywhacker.	2.30 The flywhacker.	3.30 Ebony Gale.
3.00 Moe Tidy.	3.00 SIBTON ABBEY	
3.30 Ebony Gale.	(nap).	
4.00 Derab.	4.00 Jopanzini.	

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.50 LIVE ACTION.

GOING: GOOD (CHASE COURSE); SOFT (HURDLES)

SIS

1.00 DICK CHRISTIAN NOVICES CHASE (Div 1: £2,505; 2m 4f) (12 runners)

1	2422-21 RYDE AGAIN 13 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	M. Pinner	59
2	250-221 SIBTON ABBEY 24 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	A. Carroll	72
3	425-232 BOOK OF GOLD 21 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	A. Carroll	72
4	403-233 FIDDLE A LITTLE 13 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	A. Carroll	72
5	0/1 FRENCHLANDS WAY 982 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	B. Powell	72
6	0/2 LOST ART 16 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	B. Powell	72
7	1P-54P RINGBOY 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	D. Bridgeman	72
8	0/3 SCALLY'S CHOICE 62 (Mrs M. Biggins) Mrs M. Biggins 5-11-4	L. Harvey	72
9	180P/3 THYRLAND 64 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	R. Darwood	72
10	180P/3 THYRLAND 64 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	R. Darwood	72
11	180P/3 THYRLAND 64 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	R. Darwood	72
12	180P/3 THYRLAND 64 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	R. Darwood	72

BETTING: 1-15 Ryde Again, 4-1 Singlebird, 5-1 Scally's Choice, 12-1 Fiddle A Little, 14-1 Book of Gold, 25-1 others.

1991: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

RYDE AGAIN beat Secret D'O' (D.F.S.) 12-1 at Chesham (2m 4f). SINGLEBIRD beat Secret D'O' (D.F.S.) 12-1 at Chesham (2m 4f). BOOK OF GOLD again disappointed when 12-1 at Chesham (2m 4f).

1991: RYDE AGAIN

1.30 CROXTON PARK NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1: £1,235; 2m) (13 runners)

1	1 LIVE ACTION 13 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
2	PPS 124 FLYING 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
3	CABOCHON 756 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
4	13 CAROES 22 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
5	008P/3 FRODO BAGGINS 10 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
6	008P/3 FRODO BAGGINS 10 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
7	008P/3 FRODO BAGGINS 10 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
8	008P/3 FRODO BAGGINS 10 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
9	008P/3 FRODO BAGGINS 10 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
10	008P/3 FRODO BAGGINS 10 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
11	008P/3 FRODO BAGGINS 10 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
12	008P/3 FRODO BAGGINS 10 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59

BETTING: 1-14 Cabochon, 3-1 Live Action, 5-12 Fiddle A Little, 12-1 Lusty Light, 9-1 Lure Pinner, 10-1 Sabel, 14-1 others.

1991: SIBTON ABBEY 24 (D.F.S.) 5-11-4 at Chesham (2m 4f).

FORM FOCUS

LIVE ACTION beat Cabochon (D.F.S.) 12-1 at Chesham (2m 4f). SIBTON ABBEY beat Cabochon (D.F.S.) 12-1 at Chesham (2m 4f).

1991: RYDE AGAIN

2.00 BROOK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (Div 1: £1,333; 2m) (13 runners)

1	1/500-02 BELPHEL 15 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	D. Bridgeman	59
2	40-043 ARTHURS STONE 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
3	40-043 ARTHURS STONE 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
4	40-043 ARTHURS STONE 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
5	40-043 ARTHURS STONE 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
6	40-043 ARTHURS STONE 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
7	40-043 ARTHURS STONE 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
8	40-043 ARTHURS STONE 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
9	40-043 ARTHURS STONE 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
10	40-043 ARTHURS STONE 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
11	40-043 ARTHURS STONE 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
12	40-043 ARTHURS STONE 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59

BETTING: 1-15 Cabochon, 3-1 Live Action, 5-12 Fiddle A Little, 12-1 Lusty Light, 9-1 Lure Pinner, 10-1 Sabel, 14-1 others.

1991: ARTHURS STONE 25 (D.F.S.) 5-11-4 at Chesham (2m 4f).

COURSE SPECIALISTS

ARTHURS STONE 25 (D.F.S.) 5-11-4 at Chesham (2m 4f).

1991: ARTHURS STONE 25 (D.F.S.) 5-11-4 at Chesham (2m 4f).

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1991: ARTHURS STONE 25 (D.F.S.) 5-11-4 at Chesham (2m 4f).

1991: ARTHURS STONE 25 (D.F.S.) 5-11-4 at Chesham (2m 4f).

2.30 DICK CHRISTIAN NOVICES CHASE (Div 1: £2,505; 2m 4f) (11 runners)

1	188-001 STAR SEASON 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	M. Pinner	59
2	348-021 THE FLYWHACKER 13 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	M. Pinner	59
3	004-065 GLEN DAK 451 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
4	004-065 GLEN DAK 451 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
5	004-065 GLEN DAK 451 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
6	004-065 GLEN DAK 451 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
7	004-065 GLEN DAK 451 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
8	004-065 GLEN DAK 451 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
9	004-065 GLEN DAK 451 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
10	004-065 GLEN DAK 451 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
11	004-065 GLEN DAK 451 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59

BETTING: 1-15 Ryde Again, 4-1 Singlebird, 5-1 Scally's Choice, 12-1 Fiddle A Little, 14-1 Book of Gold, 25-1 others.

1991: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

STAR SEASON made an impressive chasing debut when beating his nearest Time by 12 lengths at Chesham (2m 4f).

1991: RYDE AGAIN

3.00 RABBIT HANDICAP CHASE (Div 1: £3,015; 3m) (15 runners)

1	182P/3 WINTERPOOL 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
2	182P/3 WINTERPOOL 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
3	182P/3 WINTERPOOL 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
4	182P/3 WINTERPOOL 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
5	182P/3 WINTERPOOL 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
6	182P/3 WINTERPOOL 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
7	182P/3 WINTERPOOL 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
8	182P/3 WINTERPOOL 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
9	182P/3 WINTERPOOL 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
10	182P/3 WINTERPOOL 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59
11	182P/3 WINTERPOOL 25 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Hayman) Mrs J. Hayman 5-11-4	J. O'Shea	59

BETTING: 1-15 Ryde Again, 4-1 Singlebird, 5-1 Scally's Choice, 12-1 Fiddle A Little, 14-1 Book of Gold, 25-1 others.

1991: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

WINTERPOOL 25 (D.F.S.) 5-11-4 at Chesham (2m 4f).

1991: RYDE AGAIN

3.30 STONEBY NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1: £1,235; 2m) (22 runners)

30	STONEBY NOVICES MURDER (€1,235; 3m) (22 runners)			
2561	FLYERS NAP 13 (D.S.) (R Allen) R Allen 5-11-4	Mr R Allen	95	
244-041	REDMAN 24 (S) (T Barz) K Morgan 5-11-4	A S Smith	09	
2	CARRIGHEEN HEN 15 (J) (Parnell) R O'Shea 5-11-4	P Harley	05	
256-001	SCONY GALE 15 (S) (J. O'Shea) J. O'Shea 5-11-4	Mr J. O'Shea	05	
046	GENERAL SHOT 23 (H White) J Edwards 7-11-4	N Williamson	02	
150-06	GLEN MIRAGE 22 (P) (M Macanery) N Tivison-Devlin 7-11-4		02	
256-001	FLYERS NAP 13 (D.S.) (R Allen) R Allen 5-11-4	J Shortt	02	
24252-3	GYMCAKAR ETARDON 26 (S) (Gymnack) Rens B Picot M H Estery 5-11-4	L Wyler	94	
150-06	FLYERS NAP 13 (D.S.) (R Allen) R Allen 5-11-4	Mr J. O'Shea	05	
00-KING	FLUPPER 15 (J) (Cunniff) J Jenkins 5-11-4	R Dumegey	01	

MONDAY JANUARY 20, 1992

American continues heroics at Australian Open tennis championships

McEnroe's epic adventure

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

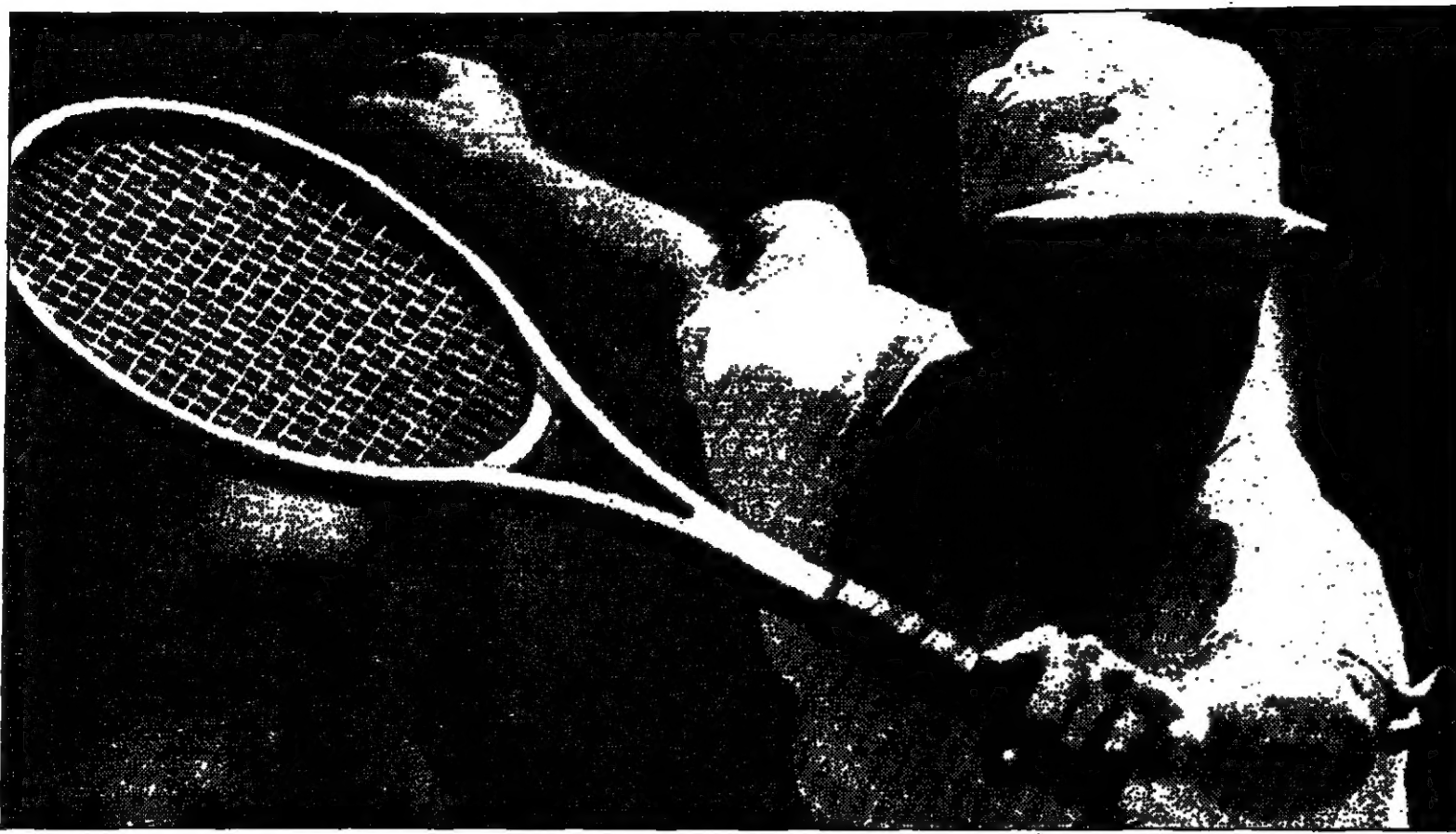
THOUGH he refused to accept the comparison, John McEnroe's progress to the quarter-finals of the Australian Open tennis championship is beginning to enter the realms of the epic recently explored by another ageing adventurer, Jimmy Connors. McEnroe had watched from the commentary box as Connors reached the semi-final of the US Open at the age of 39 last year, wondering wistfully why he did not enjoy the game as much as the arch showman.

Now, it is his turn and, after crushing Boris Becker in the third round and saving three match points in a five-set win over Emilio Sánchez yesterday, only the foolish or the unimaginative would dare to deny McEnroe the prospect of his first Australian title and his first grand slam title for more than seven years.

"The only comparison is that Jimmy and I are two of the oldest guys playing," McEnroe said. "Jimmy has inspired me, but it's not fair to him because he was winning grand slam titles at this age. That is not quite true. Connors won the last of his eight titles at the US Open at the age of 31, nearly two years younger than McEnroe, who is 33 next month."

On paper, his quarter-final opponent, Wayne Ferreira, should present fewer problems than either the No. 3 seed, Becker, or Sánchez, seeded No. 13. The South African, who recorded one of the best wins of his career over the Wimbledon semi-finalist, David Wheaton, is venturing into his first grand slam quarter-final. McEnroe's 24th, though only once, in 1983, has been beyond this stage in Australia.

"I hope he will start to know the meaning of the



Grim concentration: McEnroe returns during his thrilling performance against Sánchez in Melbourne yesterday

world 'fear.' McEnroe said of Ferreira. Poor Sánchez, who was left rueing a double faulted two mishit forehands on his three match points, could provide the perfect definition.

On the second anniversary of his expulsion from the Open and on his similarly scary afternoon when the court-side temperature touched 123°F, McEnroe left the very same centre court with his champion's spirit intact. His sporting reputation sparkling anew in the evening sun and the crowd eating from his hand. Throughout the 4hr 32min of a relentless see-saw match, he was a model of self-control. At

the end of it, he embraced Sánchez with a warmth rarely accorded to even his most respected foe, Björn Borg. The Spaniard was genuinely taken aback, as if he had been hugged by the devil himself. "A handshake didn't seem sufficient," McEnroe said.

McEnroe cuts an unlikely figure as the quiet American, but then, just maybe, after all these years, this is the real conversion. It would be unwise to bank on it just yet.

If McEnroe's temper was going to break, it would surely have done so on the third of the match points the American himself had at 5-4 in the fifth set. Sánchez had saved the second with a miraculous forehand pass, which McEnroe anticipated and could not counter, but an ace down the middle looked long. McEnroe turned in exasperation only to stop himself, shake his head sadly at the injustice and return to business. "I had tried to be so positive for so long. I didn't want anything negative to creep in," he said, adding mischievously, "besides, I didn't have the energy to argue."

A game later, McEnroe was broken, only for Sánchez to falter much as he had done in the fourth round of the US Open, also against McEnroe. Though almost at a standstill, McEnroe knew then that the match was his and Sánchez, who had fought long and hard from two sets down and from love-three down in the final set, knew it too. One final forehand gave McEnroe a 7-5, 7-6, 4-6, 2-6, 8-6 victory soon after.

Stefan Edberg, Ivan Lendl and Monica Seles all won, the Swede being particularly impressive in disposing of Andrei Chesnokov.

Results, page 34

Rediscovering the arts of sets, life and videotape

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE

A video of past glories lasting no more than an hour has transformed John McEnroe from the tormented has-been of a few months ago into the conqueror of defending champion Boris Becker and a quarter-finalist at the Australian Open.

The video featured clips from McEnroe's great matches, including the Wimbledon finals of 1981 and 1984, and was compiled by McEnroe's old friend and new coach, Larry Stefanki. "I selected particular points from 20 cassettes of his matches between 1979 and 1984 and just asked him to look at them," Stefanki says.

It was one thing, however, to make the video, quite another to persuade McEnroe to watch it. At the end of a disappointing 1991, when retirement beckoned, the last thing the ageing former champion needed was a reminder of the great days of his youth. But, over the Christmas break at Stefanki's home in Palm Springs, California, McEnroe sat down, endured the agony and emerged convinced that Stefanki's call for a return to the basics was right.

"I think he was frightened to remember how good he was," Stefanki says. "John is not the type of guy who sits down and watches films for long, nor is he the type of guy who says 'Yes, you're right'."

"He didn't look at the video for long and didn't say anything, but I think he recognised a few things about how he used to play and how he should play again."

Stefanki, who has known McEnroe since the early days, came back into McEnroe's tennis life late last year after a defeat by Andre Agassi in an exhibition match in Los Angeles. McEnroe was despondent about his form and Stefanki was equally upset by the sight of the three-time Wimbledon champion, who will soon be 33, in such disarray. He decided to speak his mind.

"As a friend, over a beer, I told him that he was selling himself short, that his game was not the same as it used to be and I wanted to know why. There was no bravery in it. I could see what he was going through and I didn't like to see it." The following day, Stefanki received a call from McEnroe and the pair talked again.

Stefanki goes on: "It really came down to a very simple question in the end. Did he really want to play or not? I think he had been living off his reputation for the last five years, and I wanted him to get back to the basics, to the aggressive way he used to play as a teenager."

"To me, he had started to believe that he couldn't play that way against all the power players of today. But that's hogwash. You can beat these new age guys by reacting quickly and taking their time away. That's what happened against Becker. He was rushed the whole time and he couldn't take it."

Slowly at first, like someone learning how to walk again, McEnroe retraced his steps, started working from inside the baseline and getting to the net as quickly as possible.

In another gamble, Stefanki lined up Jim Courier to be a practice partner. Courier, the No. 2 seed at the Australian Open and one of the hardest hitters in the game, could easily have destroyed McEnroe's confidence before it had been revived.

Instead, McEnroe survived, worked four and five hours a day and rediscovered not just his reflexes and his touch, but his enjoyment of the game he had once dominated.

Yet the match against Becker was the real test. "We didn't really formulate any plan for the match," Stefanki says. "I don't tell John how to play tennis. I just wanted him to go for it, sink or swim."

"I think Boris was waiting for him to crack. I was waiting for him to sustain it, and it was great to see him willing to take a chance. That's how it used to be and there is absolutely no reason why he can't keep it up."

Botham flies into fight for Test place

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN CHRISTCHURCH

IAN Botham, his pantomime season at an end, flies out to join England's cricketers in New Zealand today, fully aware that strong claims have been made on his all-rounder's place.

Botham was given special dispensation to begin his tour three weeks late when it was learned that he was contracted to Jack and the Beanstalk in Bournemouth. Along with his former Worcestershire colleague, Richard Illingworth, he is to link up with the team in New Plymouth on Wednesday night.

His position in the England side, however, has gone to Dermot Reeve, who yesterday marked his first Test appearance with a solid 59 as England amassed 580 for nine declared at Lancaster Park.

Reeve, who has enjoyed two outstanding seasons with Warwickshire, has had a brush or two with Botham in the past, and their abrasive, competitive styles are comparable. But, certainly in Test cricket, there will be room for only one of them in the side, a fact which will not be lost on Botham.

Sensibly, Reeve plays down the rivalry. "It is no special

incentive to me that Ian is on his way," he said. "If you get a chance to play in the England side you give it everything. It is as simple as that."

Botham, who has dismissed many such pretenders to his place in the past, may not quite see it that way.

Reeve, who received good-luck calls from Andy Lloyd, the Warwickshire captain, and from the club, had to wait until shortly before lunch on the second day to take the field as England, inspired by a century from Alec Stewart, pressed on towards the high total they have made in a Christchurch Test.

"I have never spent so long waiting to bat, and I was a bit nervous at first," Reeve said. "It helped to have an old pro like Allan Lamb at the other end. He kept talking to me, and telling me to enjoy myself."

"I didn't feel in very good form out there. I wasn't seeing the ball too well. But to get 59 in my first Test innings is marvellous."

Heavy rain was falling in Christchurch this morning, making a prompt resumption on the third day doubtful.

England next test, page 34

Kirsten selected for World Cup

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

PETER Kirsten, one of three veteran players excluded from South Africa's provisional squad for next month's cricket World Cup, has won inclusion in the final party of 14 for the tournament in Australasia.

Clive Rice, the former South Africa captain, and Jimmy Cook, the opening batsman who enjoyed three prolific summers with Somerset but has lost form at home this season, have been omitted.

Kirsten, aged 36, has maintained the form which won him a man-of-the-match award during South Africa's short tour of India in November and he has also refrained from public criticism of the selectors, that certainly destroyed any chances Rice might have had and, to a lesser extent, Cook's.

On Saturday, he was felled by a groin injury after scoring a flawless 33 for his Border team in a one-day semi-final against Orange Free State. There are, however, five more weeks before the team leaves for Australia, which should be ample time for him to recover.

Kirsten is not the oldest man in the squad. Omar Henry, of Orange Free State, who will be 40 on Thursday, has been awarded the single spin-bowling place over Clive Eksteen, of Transvaal, and Tim Shaw, of Eastern Province, who both went to India.

Kepler Wessels, the captain, said he thought it was a well-balanced team but asked supporters to "spare a thought for those guys who lost out and particularly for those whose careers fell in the isolation period."

Among the surprising omissions were Mandy Yachad, the Northern Transvaal captain, and Terence Leonard, of Western Province, who have both had free-scoring seasons as opening batsmen. Less surprising was that Darryl Cullinan, the talented but inconsistent young Transvaal No. 3 batsman, was left out in favour of Kirsten.

Allan Donald, the Orange Free State and Warwickshire fast bowler, was always a certainty, as was his 22-year-old Free State captain, Hansie Cronje, who has been in superb one-day form.

Donald will be backed by Tertius Bosch, who took five Eastern Province wickets for 56 on Saturday, and Mervik Pringle, the Western Province fast bowler, who, like Bosch, bowled himself into contention after being omitted from the original shortlist.

Snell, who was unimpressive in India, must be considered fortunate to retain his place.

SOUTH AFRICAN PARTY: K C Wessels (captain), A P Kuper (vice-captain), A C Hudson, P H Henry, W J Cronje, R Leonard, J N Pringle, S M Morkel, D J Richardson, T Bosch, A A Donald, O Henry, K Wessels, P Pringle.

Seles given scare

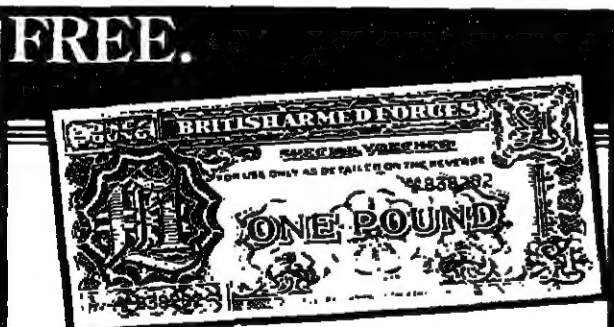
Melbourne: Monica Seles, the world No. 1 and firm favourite to win her second Australian Open title, struggled to beat a determined Leila Meskhi in three sets here yesterday.

Her victory sets up a repeat of last year's quarter-final against Anke Huber, the young German, who knocked out the sixth seed, Jana Novotna, of Czechoslovakia.

5-7, 7-6, 6-4 after trailing 4-1 in the final set.

Seles, aged 18, the No. 1 seed, could easily have been bundled out of the tournament had the aggressive Georgian taken her chances in the first set.

"I was not going for my shots. I was not attacking," Seles said after the match, which she won 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 in 1hr 53min. (Agencies)



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TIM 20/1/92

Rafferty despoils the Gold Coast

Gold Coast, Australia: Roman Rafferty, of Northern Ireland, shot a seven-under-par 65 yesterday to win the \$1 million (£560,000) Palm Meadows Cup, Australia's richest golf tournament. Rafferty had six birdies, an eagle and only 21 putts as he claimed the first prize of more than £100,000, finishing with a total of 278, ten under par.

Two strokes behind were Brad Hughes, of Australia, who has a 68, and his countryman, Brett Ogle, who shot

a closing 70. Another Australian, Robert Allenby, in his first season as a professional, shared third place with Billy Andrade, of the United States, and Rodger Davis, of Australia. Andrade, making his first appearance in Australia, closed with a 70 while Davis had a 73.

"It was my lucky day," Rafferty said after turning a nine-shot deficit into a one-shot lead in the space of 11 holes. He then sat nervously in the clubhouse for two hours as the challengers came and went.

Davis got within one shot at the 13th, Yoshinori Miyazaki, of Japan, closed to within one at the 11th and Ogle had a chance when he birdied the 10th and was within three shots.

"I never thought sitting and watching me win a golf tournament could be so nerve-wracking," Rafferty said.

Chris Patton, of the United States, had a 72 for a total of 282, a stroke behind Allenby, Andrade and Davis. Jack Kay, of Canada, was also on 282 after a 70.



Rafferty: pay day

O'Reilly lasts the pace

BY ALIX RAMSAY

WILF O'Reilly saved the best until last yesterday to win his third Europa Cup short-track speed skating title in Liekekerke, Belgium, his final important competition before the Winter Olympics in Albertville in three weeks' time.

After a weekend of 17 grueling races, O'Reilly started his best-ever 3,000 metres, finishing third, and so ended the chances of Geert Blanchaert, of Belgium, in the overall title race.

Saturday had seen O'Reilly beaten in the 500-metre and 1,500-metre finals, ending the day in joint first place with Blanchaert, but yesterday the Belgian fell and failed to qualify for the 1,000-metre final, which O'Reilly won.

A sprint specialist, the 3,000 metres is O'Reilly's least favourite distance, but knowing he had only to finish in fourth place to lift the overall title, he stepped up the pace in the last three laps to pick up the points and the title.

Kinnear is promoted after Wimbledon fire Withe

BY DENNIS SIGNY

JOE Kinnear, the former Republic of Ireland full back who won four cup winner's medals as a player with Tottenham Hotspur, was named yesterday as caretaker manager of Wimbledon for the rest of the season in succession to Peter Withe, who has been dismissed.

The decision to part company with Withe was taken by the Wimbledon directors at a board meeting on Saturday, but announced only yesterday. Wimbledon's 2-1 home defeat by Chelsea on Saturday gave Withe a managerial record of only one win in 17 matches since he succeeded Ray Harford in October.

In Withe's reign, Wimbledon slipped from seventh place in the first division to a precarious seventeenth and were dismissed from three cup competitions by teams from lower divisions, most recently by Bristol City in the FA Cup. A crowd of only 3,747 saw the club's 1-0 defeat in last week's third round replay at Selhurst Park and there have been increasing

calls from supporters for Withe's dismissal. The future of Mick Buxton, his assistant, was not clarified yesterday, but he is unlikely to stay.

Wimbledon acknowledged that Withe - who had been in charge of Aston Villa reserves - has the potential to be a first-class manager. The scorer of the winning goal for Villa in the 1982 European Cup final, he had been a coach at Huddersfield before joining Josef Venglos on the

staff at Villa Park last season. The swift promotion of Kinnear, aged 44, ended speculation that two former Wimbledon managers, Bobby Gould and Dave Bassett, might be in line for the job.

Kinnear, who was at Queen's Park Rangers on Saturday, assessing Wimbledon's next opponents, said: "There is no chance in hell that we are going to sell anybody and, in fact, I have been given money to buy."

"We have top quality players at Wimbledon, some of the most sought after in the first division. I will be bitterly disappointed if we don't finish in the top ten at the end of the season. We are still a very powerful club, both financially and on the playing side."

His assistant will be Terry Burton, the youth coach.

A Wimbledon club statement said that personal feelings had been outweighed "in the best interests of the club's present position".

Withe: dismissed



Withe: dismissed